

## Police Ranks

24234  
**Constable**

20300  
**Sergeant**

◆◆  
**Inspector**

◆◆◆  
**Chief Inspector**

◆◆◆◆  
**Superintendent**

◆◆◆◆◆  
**Chief Superintendent**

◆◆◆◆◆◆  
**Assistant Chief Constable**

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆  
**Deputy Chief Constable**

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆  
**Chief Constable**

Each police force has its own control room and **you can speak with the control room via 101.**

This is useful when looking to identify the **Officer in the Case (OIC)**

**In an emergency always dial 999**



# Speaking 'Police' in a crisis: School Leader's Guide



## Cracking Police Jargon

- **CAD / Log Number** – The unique reference for the incident. Always note this down for any future communication.
- **OIC (Officer in the Case)** – The officer responsible for investigating and managing the case.
- **SIO (Senior Investigating Officer)** – The officer leading investigations into serious or critical incidents (e.g. homicide, terrorism).
  - **Bronze / Silver / Gold Command** – Levels of command in a major incident:
  - **Bronze (Operational)**: Officers on the ground, carrying out tasks.
  - **Silver (Tactical)**: Coordinates and directs Bronze officers.
  - **Gold (Strategic)**: Sets the overall strategy and liaises with partner agencies.
- **SCG (Strategic Coordinating Group) (Gold Group)** – Multi-agency group that manages the wider response in a major incident (includes police, local authority, health, etc.).
- **Family Liaison Officer (FLO)** – Specially trained officer who supports affected families and acts as a link between police and the school community.
- **Control Room / Force Operations Room** – The central hub managing the incident; accessible via 101 for updates.
- **Cordons (Inner / Outer)** – Areas secured by police. Schools may be inside or just outside a cordon depending on proximity to the incident.
- **Media / Gold Press Officer** – The police team managing public communication; schools should align their messaging with this.
- **Recovery Coordination Group (RCG)** – Established after the emergency phase to oversee recovery (reopening schools, community reassurance, ongoing support).

## Common Police Powers

- **Seizure of Evidence** – Under Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), s19 & s22, police can seize documents, electronic devices, and safeguarding files if they believe they are relevant to an offence.
- **Interviewing Pupils in School** – Under PACE, Code C, a child suspect must have an Appropriate Adult present (Staff member/Parent: YES - Headteacher: NO)
- **Search of Premises** – Under PACE, s8, police can search school premises with a warrant issued by a magistrate. Certain urgent circumstances allow searches without a warrant.
- **Arrest Powers** – Under PACE, s24, police can arrest pupils or staff if they reasonably suspect involvement in an offence.
- **Access to Records / Information** – Under PACE, s22 and safeguarding legislation (e.g. Children Act 1989 & 2004), police may request access to school-held information such as attendance records, safeguarding files, or CCTV relevant to an investigation.

## Questions to ask in a crisis

- **Who is the Officer in the Case (OIC)**, and how do I contact them?
- **What is the incident log / CAD number?**
- **Is the school inside or near a cordon?** What restrictions apply?
- **What information can be shared** with parents, staff, and pupils at this stage?
- **Who is the police press/media contact**, and how should we align our communication?
- **Is there a Family Liaison Officer (FLO)** or dedicated contact for affected families?
- **What is the expected police presence** at/around the school, and for how long?
- **Are there any safeguarding risks** (e.g. suspects linked to pupils, community tensions) the school should be aware of?
- What follow-up processes will there be (interviews, **recovery planning**, debrief)?

## My Community Police Contacts

PREVENT Lead:

Neighbourhood Police officer

Local Area Commander (Inspector):

EduShield is a Safeguarding and Major Incident Support Partner.

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