Talking to the police
Talking to the police

Here you can find out more about:

- What a police officer does
- Reporting things to the police
- Being a witness
Talking to the police

What is the job of the police?

The police are an emergency service and their job is to protect the public. They are available 24 hours a day every day of the year.

They will try to help with problems and can give you advice. For example, if you want advice about how to keep your house safe. You can ask the Crime Prevention Officer at your local Police Station to send you an information pack.

Your Crime Prevention Officer can tell you if there is a Neighbourhood Watch where you live.

This is when your neighbours look out to make sure you and your house are safe.
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The police have five main jobs:

To protect life
Making sure no-one’s life is in danger

To protect property
Making sure people’s things are not stolen or damaged

To keep the peace
Making sure people do not fight or argue in public

To enforce the law
Making sure people do not break the law

To prevent and detect crime
Making sure people have information to keep themselves and their property safe. If there has been a crime, finding out who did it and taking action.
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Reporting things

Reporting things means telling the police what has happened.

For example:

If someone calls you names or bothers you in the street.

If someone hurts you.

If you see a crime.

If you find something that someone may have lost.

There are different ways of telling the police

For example:

You can fill in the Bullying and Harassment Reporting Form.

You can ask someone to help you.

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You can make a phone call to your local Police Station.

You can visit your local police station. You may want someone to go with you if you feel worried or nervous. Remember the police are there to help.

You can use the internet to report a crime.

Before you talk to the police it is important to remember what has happened. To help you there are five questions you can ask yourself.

Maybe you will want to write down the answers or ask a friend to help you remember. The questions are:

**Who** was there?
**What** happened?
**Where** did it happen?
**When** did it happen?
**How** did it happen?
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The police may ask you the same five questions, when you report what happened.

For example,

Who was there?
What happened?
Where did it happen?
When did it happen?
How did it happen?

The police will also ask your name, address, telephone number and date of birth.

Use your Keeping Safe Card

You must ask the officer that is dealing with you to write down their name, the date and the reference number.
Keep this as you may need it again.
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In an emergency call **999**

Do **not** call 999 if you need advice. If you need to talk to an officer who is already helping you with something call the local police station. You will need to give the officers name and your reference number.

Sometimes you may not want to give the police your name. If you see something bad happen and don’t want to give your name you can phone Crime Stoppers on:

**0800 555 111**

What you say is confidential  
You do not have to pay to use this service
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Did you see a crime?

If you see a crime, you are a witness. A crime is when someone breaks the law, like stealing or hurting someone.

You can choose if you want to tell the police about it.

Your information will be helpful to them.

Police are trained to listen and talk to people who have witnessed a crime. They can help you tell them what you have seen.
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Maybe something has happened and you feel afraid that if you tell the police it could happen again.

You should still tell the police about it. It will help the police if you give your name and address, but you don't have to.

What you say is confidential. You can also phone Crime Stoppers.

When witnesses tell the police about a crime, they can try and stop it happening again. This is why it is important to be able to trust and talk to the police if things happen.

Witnesses are very important people they help the police to do their job. Victim Support and the Witness Service can help you.

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