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Dear London Schools Head Teachers,

As you will be aware, as part of the Metropolitan Police Service's wider Neighbourhood Policing redesign, we have moved from a model that relied on dedicated specialist roles, such as Safer Schools Officers and other community liaison posts, to one where local neighbourhood policing teams deliver the full range of engagement and safeguarding responsibilities previously undertaken by those specialist officers. This approach places responsibility for community engagement with Ward and Town Centre teams, enabling them to build stronger local relationships and develop a fuller understanding of the communities they serve. The focus is on delivering meaningful engagement that supports local policing priorities, community safety, and problem-solving.

While the structure of these roles has changed, our commitment to working in partnership with schools, supporting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and building positive relationships with school communities remains as strong as ever.

Now that our changes are fully embedded, we are writing to remind schools of the current arrangements and importantly, the level of engagement and contact they can expect from their local policing teams. This includes our commitment to providing a named Dedicated Ward Officer for Children and Young People (DWO-CYP) to priority schools, alongside clear contact arrangements for all other schools.

We would also encourage all schools to sign up to **Met Engage**, our online community messaging platform, which provides information about local issues, crime prevention advice, and updates from neighbourhood policing teams. You can register at: <https://www.metengage.co.uk/>

The minimum expectations for engagement, named points of contact, and formal meetings are set out below.

## **1. Secondary Schools:**

### 1a. Key Contacts – Secondary Schools

- Headteachers will have regular contact with their local Neighbourhood Superintendent. This will be either via existing head teacher meetings or via a police led schools partnership meeting.
- In every priority secondary school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be provided with the contact details of:
  - their Dedicated Ward Officer for Children and Young People (DWO-CYP); and
  - the Safer Communities Lead (SCL) Sergeant.
- Every non-priority secondary school will have a named ward officer who can be contacted to escalate concerns or issues.

### 1b. Meetings and Engagement – Secondary Schools

- In priority secondary schools, the Dedicated Ward Officer for Children and Young People will meet with the Designated Safeguarding Lead **every fortnight for a risk scanning meeting** to review emerging risks and share relevant information.
- Headteachers will maintain regular contact with Neighbourhood Superintendents, who will also attend **Headteacher meetings on a quarterly basis**.
- All secondary schools will be offered a **termly crime prevention session** delivered by either a Dedicated Ward Officer for Children and Young People or a local ward officer.
- All secondary schools will be offered a **termly meeting with their Ward Sergeant** or Cluster Inspector.

## **2. Primary Schools**

### 2a. Key Contacts – Primary Schools

- Headteachers and/or Designated Safeguarding Leads will know who their local Ward Sergeant is and how to contact them.

### 2b. Meetings and Engagement – Primary Schools

- In areas where Junior Citizens programmes operate, police representatives will **engage annually** with Year 6 pupils to support their **transition to secondary school**.

Where our service does not meet these expectations, please raise this with your local policing team or contact me directly, and we will work to address any issues as quickly as possible.

We greatly value the role that schools play in safeguarding children and young people and remain committed to working in close partnership with education colleagues across London. We look forward to continuing to strengthen these relationships and supporting our school communities through the neighbourhood policing model.

Yours sincerely,



**Commander Neerav Patel**  
**MPS Frontline Policing**