Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Education Strategy

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Foreword from Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

This strategy sets out my aspiration for a strong partnership between voluntary organisations, schools and other public bodies to support parents and children in order to reduce the risk of children becoming either victims of crime or becoming perpetrators of crime.

It is not the job of the state to raise our children, but statutory bodies have an important duty to help create a safe environment for some of the most vulnerable in society through their formative years.

By supporting parents in fulfilling their responsibilities to schools, councils, the police and voluntary groups can help to protect children, prevent crime and support a new generation of responsible citizens.



Background

In his Police and Crime Plan (2024 - 2029), the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley details 15 priority areas where he will work with the police, the public and other agencies to make every community safer by reducing crime and creating a more resilient society, as well as a series of enablers to support the delivery of this activity.

Recognising the vital role of crime education for young people, early intervention in schools is incorporated as an enabler with a commitment to:

- **Review the range of interventions by the police and the Office of the PCC** to create a clear strategy for early intervention in schools
- **Develop clear messages - for parents as well as children -** about the risks faced by young people
- **Deliver consistent messages to all families in Thames Valley**

Over the past 12 months, the PCC has funded a dedicated resource to assess the current crime education landscape and engage with key stakeholders to inform the development of this Education Strategy. This included conducting semi-structured interviews with School's Officers and an online survey for education settings which received over 600 responses.

This strategy is primarily aimed at young people who are within education settings. However, the Crime Education Resource Hub will be a public facing website that is accessible to all including parents who may be home schooling and alternative education provisions for young people who are outside of mainstream education following exclusion.

In addition, this strategy sits alongside wider work relating to young people and criminal justice. This includes the development of a Child Centred Policing Policy by Thames Valley Police and whole system collaboration through the Local Criminal Justice Board to explore the correlation between school exclusion, poor attendance, and the likelihood of youth involvement in the criminal justice system.

What is the aim of our Education Strategy?

To promote a consistent approach to crime education across the Thames Valley that focuses on prevention, improves trust in policing and reduces both the risk of young people offending and becoming victims of crime.







How will we deliver this?

1) By strengthening engagement with local authority Directors of Children's Services and Directors of Education

On an annual basis, there is a commitment from the PCC and Thames Valley Police (TVP) to meet with local authority Directors of Children's Services, Directors of Education and wider partners involved in crime education to discuss:

- **current areas of concern and priorities for crime education**
- **opportunities for collaborative working**
- **any support offer from the PCC over the coming year**



How will we deliver this?

2) By developing a Crime Education Resource Hub hosted on the OPCC website

A page on the OPCC website will provide links to crime education resources developed by the OPCC and partner agencies for young people, teachers, parents and wider professionals. This page will also store:

- **an overview of projects relating to young people that are currently being funded by the PCC**
- **links to local crime data**
- **links to local and national awareness campaigns aimed at young people**
- **contact details for the allocated Thames Valley Police School's Officer for each secondary school and contact details for the relevant Neighbourhood Policing Team for primary schools**

How will we deliver this?

3) By refreshing the School's Officer Partnership Agreement between Thames Valley Police and education settings

Following the recent Thames Valley Police restructure and move to 5 Local Command Units, there are now 16 designated School's Officers across the Thames Valley, supported by local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Every secondary school will have an allocated School's Officer and every primary school will have contact details for their relevant Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In Spring 2026, a refreshed School's Officer Partnership Agreement will be shared with secondary schools to be signed by Thames Valley Police and school Headteachers. This agreement will include:

- **clarification of the remit of the School's Officer role**
- **confirmation of the support offer from School's Officers**

How will we deliver this?

4) By professionalising and evolving the role of the School's Officer with a focus on prevention

To support the refreshed School's Officer Partnership Agreement, an updated job description has been created for School's Officers. Importantly, from Spring 2026, School's Officers will no longer carry an investigative caseload, allowing them to focus instead on preventative activity.

School's Officers will also be encouraged to attend local multi-agency safeguarding and education meetings enabling them to actively contribute to early intervention and offer tactical advice to professionals. In addition, the following measures will be introduced to promote a high quality and consistent offer from School's Officers across the Thames Valley:

- **an improved training programme for School's Officers including sessions on workshop delivery and engagement methods. School's Officers will be encouraged to attend partnership training sessions alongside other local safeguarding partners (i.e. training offered through Local Children's Safeguarding Boards)**
- **the development of a suite of standardised materials for crime education which can be accessed by all School's Officers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams**
- **the creation of a dedicated internal platform for School's Officers and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to share resources, good practice, campaigns and training opportunities**

How will we deliver this?

5) By delivering a consistent, age appropriate offer of crime education to young people across Thames Valley

There is a commitment from Thames Valley Police to deliver inputs during a young person's journey through education, specifically in Year 7 and Year 9. Year 6 resources will be available on the new Crime Education Resource Hub for primary schools to access and deliver. Within the online survey for education settings, the following issues were identified as the areas that are currently of most concern: online safety and cyber crime, bullying, peer conflict, ASB, substance misuse, county lines, sexual exploitation, grooming, healthy relationships, knife crime and serious violence.

2026 UPATE: For the 2026/2027 academic year, the following targeted inputs will therefore be delivered/available:

- **Year 6 – Online Safety and Cybercrime**
- **Year 7 – Bullying, Peer Violence and Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Year 9 – Healthy Relationships, 'Manosphere/Red Pill', and Consent**

These focus areas will be reviewed on an annual basis, informed by feedback from local authority Directors of Children's Services and Directors of Education, education settings, young people and parents.

How will we deliver this?

6) By involving parents as partners in crime education

Recognising the fundamental role of parents in reinforcing key messages, School's Officers will be encouraged to seek opportunities to share crime education content with parents, through dedicated awareness raising sessions, as well as through the use of school communication platforms.

7) By embedding the voices of young people within our approach to crime education

School's Officers will engage with young people to listen to their concerns and seek their feedback on priorities for crime education. This could include local forums such as School Councils / Youth Councils.

8) By sharing an annual online survey for education settings

Following the significant response from education settings to the online survey shared this year, there is a commitment from the PCC to repeat this annually. This annual online survey will be used to gather feedback on engagement with Thames Valley Police, identify opportunities for learning and improvement, and inform future delivery.