

## What is Mini Police?

Mini Police is an innovative and fun police engagement programme, which is delivered in schools with the support of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from the local neighbourhood police team.

The aim of Mini Police is to provide school children in Years 5 or 6 (aged 9-11) with a fun and interactive way to introduce children to a positive experience of policing and to get them involved in the local community.

Our Mini Police programme aims to:

- Introduce policing as a positive influence to children
- Build relationships, trust and confidence in children
- Nurture feelings of social and moral responsibility, safety, and policing through a fun and engaging programme of activities
- Encourage children to positively engage with their local community policing team
- Reduce their risk of becoming offenders or victims
- Work together with partners to begin to instil age-appropriate safety-awareness

The programme revolves around a framework of:

- Police led education - This being an educational input which will cover issues identified in partnership with the school and will involve current priorities and areas for concern e.g. road, fire, water safety, knife crime, internet safety etc.
- School led community engagement – A community action carried out by the children to include local priorities e.g. litter picking, parking awareness outside school, speeding etc.
- Reward – This is a means of thanking the Mini Police for carrying out the above elements e.g. a visit to a police station or specialist unit (Dogs/Control Room), a visit to a fire station etc.

*“Our Mini Police will support the force priorities, through participation in community engagement events. Those involved can look forward to developing a confident voice through enjoyable experiences. Children who become part of the programme will help to tackle local issues, as highlighted by their own communities. By assisting the police service, we hope they will also carry that ownership and pride back into the community they live in.”* **Merseyside Constabulary**

As Mini Police at St. Hugh’s grows, our miniature officers will experience a range of opportunities which will help them develop their sense of community and duty, for example, taking part in speed watch operations; visiting the police horses; attending the launch of Hate Crime Awareness Week and working together on hill walks across the North West.