



You are here: [Home](#) » [My Local Police](#) » [North Division](#) » [Derbyshire Dales LPU](#) » [Ashbourne](#) » [Police team up to launch Ashbourne's Safer Neighbourhood Stars scheme](#)

# Police team up to launch Ashbourne's Safer Neighbourhood Stars scheme

Posted on 22nd May 2015

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The officers have been visiting Parkside Junior School throughout the week to deliver five targeted sessions to Year Six pupils, with further sessions being planned for after the half term holidays.

During the talks, PC Baggaley and PCSO Bell-Heather spoke to the group about anti-social behaviour and the effect that this can have on people living in the local community.

The talk also covered the role of the Safer Neighbourhood team, home and online security, and staying safe when out and about.

11-year-old Paige Collins who took part in the visits said: "I've learnt how to be a good citizen and we were encouraged to do better things in life. The best bit was when we got to learn about Rachel's police equipment and were allowed to use the walkie-talkie."

Alfie Topham, also 11-years-old, thought it was interesting to find out what the police did to keep Ashbourne safe. He said: "We have to be good citizens because it helps the police keep everything under control. I really enjoyed using the radio and handcuffs too."

PC Rachel Baggaley from the policing team added: "It has been a fantastic opportunity provided by Parkside School for us to engage with the Year 6 pupils and get to know them better.

"Alongside the issue of anti-social behaviour, we have also discussed peer pressure, as this is very important with the pupils moving up to high school where they will be making new friendship groups and more than likely facing peer pressure at some point. We have tried to help educate the group in the best ways to act when this happens or if they witness something that needs to be reported.

"We have hopefully equipped them with the knowledge to keep safe and be good citizens. It was also really reassuring how much the group learned and enjoyed the sessions."

To speak to the Safer Neighbourhood team call 101, and follow the team on Twitter: @AshbourneSNT

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