



FAO Parents, Carers or Guardians of students attending
Bexley schools in the London Borough of Bexley

Bexleyheath Police Station
2 Arnsberg Way
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA7 4QS

www.met.police.uk

Ref : Youth related disorder in
Bexleyheath town centre

23/02/2023

Re: Youth related disorder in Bexleyheath town centre

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian

I am writing to you as a parent, carer or guardian of a child who is currently enrolled at a Bexley Borough secondary school to discuss the rise in anti-social behaviour reported in Bexleyheath town centre.

Sadly, in recent years, inappropriate behaviour amongst some school pupils in Bexleyheath town centre has increased to an unacceptable level. In order to tackle this issue, the Metropolitan Police Service has begun working closely in partnership with Bexley Council and Bexley School Head teachers as part of an early intervention scheme.

We acknowledge that the cause of the upsurge in anti-social behaviour is down to a minority of school pupils, but the effects of such are felt throughout our community.

As a team, we will seek to manage any incidence of anti-social behaviour at the earliest opportunity. This may include some level of intervention for any individual involved, and would be put in to place with a view to preventing future criminal behaviour. Any action taken would be based upon the practices and powers stated in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Sanctions as a result of anti-social behaviour may include:

- being banned from certain stores in the shopping centre
- removal of TfL Zip card (Oyster) for children aged 11-15 – effectively ending free and discounted travel on all TfL transport services
- being placed on a barring list for child Oyster card concessions
- issuing of Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)
- issuing of a Parenting Order
- issuing of a Civil Injunction
- issuing of a Closure Order / Notice linked to Section 21 and Section 8 of the Housing Act 1998
- receiving a youth caution or being charged for a criminal offence

In the first instance, expect there will be an increased police presence in Bexleyheath town centre over the next few months, as we seek to reassure the business community and visitors on our high street. As part of this strategy, police officers may use powers to disperse young people under Section 35 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act

2014, which gives a police officer in uniform the power to exclude an individual from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 50 of the Police Reform Act 2002, an officer will require any individual engaging in anti-social behaviour to provide their full name and address. Should the individual fail to do so, or knowingly provide false or inaccurate information, then a further offence will have been committed and will be dealt with accordingly. If your child is found to be in breach of either offence they are likely to be taken home by uniformed police officers, and their school will be notified of the incident.

I would ask for your co-operation in warning any young people in your care of the consequences of unacceptable behaviour in Bexleyheath town centre.

Should you have any information regarding the issue of serious youth violence, or anti-social behaviour, please report it to us by visiting the Met Police online portal at - <https://www.met.police.uk/>

To report an incident, please call 101. In an emergency, or should a crime be in progress, then please call 999.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Calladine | Sergeant 562SE SE – Bexley Safer Schools Team