

UK POLICE MEMORIAL



Session 1: Key Stage 3/4 lesson plan – The Role of the Police in the UK

A 1-hour session on the role of policing in the UK, incorporating the development of modern policing, community safety, British values, and reflection on the duty and sacrifice of officers.

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand the development of modern policing in the UK.
- Explore the role of policing in ensuring community safety.
- Reflect on the values of British society and their connection to policing.
- Consider the duty and sacrifice of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Lesson Structure

1. Starter Activity (10 minutes)

Objective: Activate prior knowledge and set the context.

Task 1: Display an image of the first police officers in 1829 (e.g., the “Peelers”) alongside a modern police officer.

Ask students:

- What similarities and differences can you identify?
- What might have changed in the role of police officers over time?
- How do police officers contribute to our safety today?

Class Discussion: Highlight that modern policing stems from Sir Robert Peel’s principles of 1829, focusing on community partnership and public trust.

2. Core Learning (20 minutes)

Objective: Introduce key concepts and the role of policing in the UK.

Brief Input:

History of Policing (5 mins): Explain how modern policing began with Peel's establishment of the Metropolitan Police in 1829, emphasising the principle of “policing by consent” and its alignment with British values (democracy, rule of law, mutual respect).

Policing Today (5 mins): Outline their role in:



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- Community safety (e.g., reducing crime, building trust with communities, supporting victims).
- Upholding laws that reflect British values, such as fairness and equality.
- The risks and sacrifices officers face.

Task 2 (10 mins): Case Studies Analysis

Provide three short case studies highlighting different aspects of policing:

- I. Community policing (e.g., youth engagement to reduce anti-social behaviour).
- II. A historical moment of bravery (e.g., officers in a crisis or a notable historical sacrifice).
- III. Modern-day technology in policing (e.g., use of body-worn cameras or cybercrime).

Group Task: Divide students into small groups. Each group analyses one case study and answers:

- How does this reflect British values?
- What impact did the police actions have on community safety?
- What challenges might the officers have faced?

3. Reflection and Discussion (15 minutes)

Objective: Reflect on duty, sacrifice, and values.

- A. **Input:** Briefly introduce the concept of the UK Police Memorial and the annual commemoration of officers who have died in the line of duty. Interestingly until the George Medal, introduced in 1940 there was no formal recognition available for police officers to recognise heroism. In 2024 The next of kin of former firefighters, police officers and other public servants who have died in public service are eligible to receive the award in recognition of their deceased loved ones. Recognising the sacrifices as families they make.

This case contains sensitive content not appropriate to certain audiences. You are using it at your own risk. Please consider context and audience before using in a learning environment.



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- Share a story of an officer who showed made the ultimate sacrifice (e.g., PC Keith Palmer, who died protecting the UK Parliament in 2017).
<https://youtu.be/DJekpFFDTjc?si=VJgJ5wueUe4ZDypj>
<https://youtu.be/cX0lr48VExU?si=3LaAWBkBrdKP7PMD>
<https://youtu.be/Rjr24oeZ-dU?si=3IllbhxrZrBz58-j>
- Pose the question: Why is it important to honour those who have made this sacrifice?

B. Task: Letter to a Fallen Officer (10 mins)

- Students write a short reflective letter addressed to a fallen officer or their family.
- Prompts:
 - a) What would you say to thank them for their service?
 - b) Why do you think their sacrifice was important for the community and the country?
 - c) How do they inspire you to think about duty and values?

4. Plenary (5 minutes)

Objective: Summarise learning and encourage personal reflection.

Whole-Class Discussion:

- What role do police play in promoting British values in society today?
- How can we as individuals support the police in maintaining a safe community?

Exit Question: Students answer on a sticky note:

- What's one thing you learned about the role of policing that you didn't know before?

Materials Needed:

- Visuals: Images of Peelers and modern officers.
- Handouts: Brief case studies.
- Writing materials for reflective letters.
- (Optional) Video clip or audio excerpt on the National Police Memorial.



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Extension Ideas:

- How can you and your cadet unit/school further the work of the UK Police Memorial or recognise the courage and sacrifice of officers?

The Role of Women in Policing (use UK Police Memorial video resource)

- Explore the history of women in policing, starting from the early 20th century.
- What challenges have women faced, and how has their role evolved?
- Highlight examples of female officers who have demonstrated bravery and sacrifice.

This plan incorporates historical, reflective, and ethical dimensions, connecting to British values and fostering empathy through structured activities.

