

Secure your School



this Summer

Not long until the school summer holidays, when your school buildings will be quiet and deserted.

The reduction in activity around the school can provide the potential for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour to increase.

Schools are often targeted by criminals, over the summer holidays, who want to steal computers and other school equipment.

Secure your school crime prevention tips:

- Check boundaries regularly for gaps or damage, and to identify any “desire lines” that have developed and give consideration to blocking the route taken.
- Fences at schools are primarily to keep pupils in, not trying to keep determined offenders out. With this in mind, any boundaries should encourage easy surveillance of the site. This can be achieved in some cases by keeping trees/hedges short and having weld mesh railings rather than wooden fences.
- If rooms are being hired out over the holidays ensure that only rooms required are available and that the rest of the school is secured. If possible have the alarm zoned so that the rest can be active, but allowing free use of the relevant rooms.
- Use your neighbours as the school’s eyes and ears during the holidays. Consider sending school newsletters to them, thanking them for their assistance in the past and asking them to report any suspicious activity at the school to the police.
- Is all school property security marked? All property should be marked by one of the proprietary methods, using a UV pen (postcode or school name) or other products. Consider boldly marking property with bright coloured permanent paint, with either the school’s postcode or crest which will reduce the chances a burglar will steal it.
- Ensure laptops/mobile devices etc are kept in a secured cupboard/ store in an alarmed area (this includes those stored on a trolley). Consider a ground or wall anchor for trolleys.
- Is the alarm serviced regularly? Including a visual check of all sensors to make sure they haven’t been covered, and that they still cover the main equipment/target in the room and haven’t been obscured by displays, furniture, etc.
- CCTV - Is it regularly maintained? Are the time and date settings regularly checked to ensure they are correct? Are appropriate signs displayed to warn offenders that they are being recorded?

When considering any additional crime prevention measures use the ‘ARC’ principle - measures should be **Appropriate**, **Realistic** and **Cost Effective**.

We recommend The Master Locksmiths Association
www.locksmiths.co.uk and www.securedbydesign.com for helpful advice.

For further advice or for a comprehensive survey of your school, please contact the Crime Prevention Officers at Hertfordshire Constabulary on the non-emergency number: **101**.



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY