

What is a School Resource Officer

While SROs are police officers responsible for helping keep our schools safe, **they are not school disciplinarians or enforcers of school rules.** Issues such as classroom behavior, dress code, tardiness, cell phones, and other school policy matters are appropriately handled by teachers and administrators. Likewise, an SRO should never be used to frighten or intimidate a student into behaving.

Their role is much bigger than enforcement.

One of their most important responsibilities is **building positive, trusting relationships with students.** They want students to know them before they ever need them. That happens through everyday conversations, fist bumps, laughter, encouragement, and simply being a trusted adult who is available to listen.

For many children, their SRO may be the police officer they interact with most during their childhood. We want those experiences to teach them that police officers are approachable people they can trust and turn to when they need help.

Those relationships also make schools safer. **Students who trust their SRO are more likely to speak up when something is wrong, ask for help, or share a concern about themselves or someone else.** Trust cannot be demanded by a badge. It must be earned, one interaction at a time.

Of course, when a serious situation requires law-enforcement action, an SRO will respond appropriately. But our everyday goal is much simpler:

Keep students safe. Build relationships. Earn their trust. Be there when they need them.

We hope your child remembers their School Resource Officer not simply as a police officer who worked at their school, but as someone who knew their name, cared about them, and helped make their school a safe and happy place.