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## Police Force and Our Society St. Teresa Secondary School

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The rapid development and modernization of Hong Kong has turned the city into one of the biggest financial centres in the Far East. The city is crowded with people and skyscrapers. But beneath this civilized surface is a dark-side which is full of criminals and various social problems.

It is not difficult for you to find a police officer patrolling our streets. There are over 27,000 officers serving in Hong Kong. The police force carries out their duties by fighting crime every day. People can go to the report room at any of the 63 police stations across Hong Kong if they witness a crime.

You need to be careful of your surroundings. This man looks suspicious! Some common illegal activities that the police deal with include the selling of fake DVDs and CDs, the work of pickpockets, and of course, theft. In 2007, crime statistics showed that there were 1,216 cases of pick pocketing and 4,512 reports of theft. These figures are frightening.

How does it all happen? Sometimes victims of crime are partly responsible for it. See these schoolbags put aside in the playground, where these teenagers are casually playing football? It's easy to be careless when you're having fun.

The door of this office is left unlocked after a worker leaves for a moment. Who's looking after the office now?

Even traveling on a bus from A to B is not completely safe. See this girl who is about to take a seat? She is fast asleep now, but while she is sleeping on the bus, her bag remains open. What is she dreaming about?

Again, look at this boy waiting for a train on the MTR platform- he doesn't notice that his rucksack is open when he is talking on his mobile phone.

Now, let's see what precautions can be taken. A gang of thieves just spotted some teenagers' schoolbags unattended as they play football, but someone should be sent to keep guard over them.

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By standing over the bags, they would act as a deterrent to would-be thieves.

Now back to the workplace- the office worker should ensure he locks the door when he goes out of the office.

And now the girl on the bus finally notices that she hasn't zipped her bag, so she places it in front of her. That's right, much safer. Now she can dream in peace.

The boy on the platform who is unsure if he has zipped his bag now makes sure it's zipped up, thus avoiding being an easy target of a pickpocket.

In Hong Kong, our streets are crowded with cars, public transport is full of passengers and pedestrians walk inattentively on the streets. It's easy to give criminals an opportunity. Luckily, we have the police force to protect us. However, we should also be alert so we can protect our property by not giving any chance for criminals to prosper. In order to keep Hong Kong a safe and peaceful society, we all have to be vigilant and to play our part in preventing crime.

Keep yourself and our city secure!