

Scene 6

(The continuity presenters enter.)

Amy Our next show is a gritty fly-on-the-wall documentary about a group of people on the cutting edge of law enforcement at school.

Ben That’s right, it’s those lunchtime ladies who patrol the dinner hall, playground and field, armed only with whistles. This is reality TV that’s not for the faint-hearted. We warn you, there may be scenes that some of you find shocking, as we bring you.....Supervisors!

*(As the **Supervisors Theme Tune** plays (CD track 33) Amy and Ben exit. Centre-stage is a single dining table, around which four children are finishing their lunch. Standing over them, with intimidating postures, are five dinner ladies/lunchtime supervisors, wearing ‘SWAT gear’ – see staging suggestions/costumes. As the theme tune fades we hear a narrator’s dramatic voice – s/he can either be on stage, or speak the lines as a ‘voice-over’ from offstage.)*

Narrator Betty, Doreen, Gladys, Phyllis, and Audrey are members of a crack law-enforcement unit called the Lunchtime Supervisors. We join them as they try to deal with violent trouble-makers at a dining table.

Betty I’m obliged to inform you that flicking peas is an offence under the Lunchtime Code, subsection 6. Read him his rights, Doreen.

Child 1 But it was *(name of child 2)* who spilled them all over the table. I was only clearing a space to put my drink down.

Doreen You have the right to remain silent, but anything you do say will be taken down and used in evidence. Take them to the slammer, Gladys.

Child 2 The slammer! What’s that? I don’t want to go to the slammer!

Child 1 Don’t worry. It just means we have to face the wall for the next half hour until lunchtime play is over.

Gladys Move it you two, and don’t even think about trying to make a break for it. *(She leads the two children off stage.)*

Phyllis *(to the two remaining children)* We know that you tried to get infants to drink vinegar, but we can’t prove it, so we’re watching you. Now get outside to play, and remember...*(she points to her eyes then at the children).*

(The table is removed and all exit. The ladies then re-enter and stand centrally.)

Narrator With the dining finished, the ladies now have to turn their attention to the ‘mean streets’, in other words the playground and the field, which is an extremely dangerous environment.

Audrey Ok ladies, it’s going to be a tough thirty minutes. Remember, if you get into trouble call for back-up. Is your equipment in good order? *(They each produce a whistle and blow in turn.)* Ok, good luck. And ladies.....be careful out there.

(Two children, a girl chasing a boy, run in front of the stage then disappear to one side. Betty blows her whistle then jumps down from the stage.)

Betty One male and one female suspect exceeding the speed limit, traffic code violation 7b, heading east along the playground. I’m in pursuit.

(She follows them and disappears to one side. The four remaining ladies agitatedly prowl the stage. A child enters and mimes trying to pull open a locked door. Doreen sneaks up on her from behind.)

Narrator It’s not long before Doreen discovers an attempted break-in!

(Doreen blows her whistle at the startled child.)

Doreen Put your hands behind your head and move away from the door!

(Still with her back to Doreen the child raises her hands in alarm.)

Child 3 What have I done wrong?!

Doreen Gaining illegal entry to private property is a felony.

Child 3 But I’m desperate for the loo. I’m busting!

Doreen You’re **busted!** Save the excuses for the judge, Princess. Move it!

(As Doreen frog marches her off, the girl and boy run back along in front of the stage with a tiring Betty still in pursuit. She blows her whistle then stops to catch her breath as the two children exit on the other side.)

Betty Still in pursuit, heading west by the playground. All units stand by.

(She follows and exits. Audrey then blows her whistle and points off stage. Phyllis and Gladys stand next to her to see what she’s spotted.)

Narrator Suddenly, Audrey is alerted to an incident of gross indecency!

Audrey Two female suspects, wearing skirts, performing handstands against the wall and exposing their under-garments! I’m going in!

Phyllis We’ve got your back, Audrey. Call for assistance if you need it.

(Phyllis and Gladys watch Audrey exit. Three boys enter, one with a football, and stand in front of centre stage. A ‘rival’ group of three boys, one with a football, enter from the other side and approach them. The groups face each other.)

Narrator Within moments Gladys hears of a gang turf-war being waged on the football pitch! The Yr 5 boys think it’s their day to use the goal posts, but the Yr 6 boys think differently. Gladys arrives in the middle of a tense stand-off.

(Gladys moves between the two groups and blows her whistle. The two groups move closer to each other, Gladys in the middle. She again blows her whistle.)

Gladys Officer in need of assistance! I repeat, officer in need of assistance!

(Phyllis bounds down from the stage and joins Gladys. The groups step back.)

Phyllis We obviously have a situation here, boys. What’s the problem?

Child 4 It’s Tuesday. That means it’s our turn in the goals today. They think just ‘cause they’re in Yr6 they can push us around.

Narrator Part of the supervisor’s role is conflict resolution. These ladies are trained to defuse such potentially dangerous situations.

(Phyllis takes the ball from one group, and Gladys takes the ball from the other. Together they kick the balls off in opposite directions.)

Phyllis & Gladys Now scam, you punks, before we book you! Go on, scam!

(The boys run off. The boy and girl whom Betty is chasing then run back across the front of the stage. Phyllis and Gladys block their path.)

Phyllis & Gladys Stop in the name of the law!

(They stop. Betty staggers on, blowing her whistle. Audrey and Doreen return.)

Betty *(huffing and puffing)* You two, hands behind your heads and spread ‘em! Secure the suspects, ladies. *(Audrey and Doreen hold one child, while Phyllis and Gladys hold the other.)* So, we’ve got you on three counts; speeding, running without due care and attention, and failing to stop for an officer. You’re looking at a three-to-five stretch for that little lot!

Child 5 & 6 We were only playing kiss chase.

Betty Kiss chase! Let me see some i.d. *(She fishes paper from their pockets.)* Ha! Just as I thought! You’re in Yr4 and you have to be at least in Yr5 to play kiss chase. Underage kiss-chasing is a federal offence. Add this to the traffic violations and they’re gonna throw away the key. Let’s take them in.

(They all exit.)

Narrator So, as afternoon school begins these brave and tireless ladies finish their shift, happy in the knowledge that, at least for the time being, school is still a safe place for decent people. And any of you out there who think you are above the law, watch out! These girls mean business. We’ll see you next time on ‘Supervisors’.

*(As the **Supervisors Theme Tune (CD track 34)** plays the cast take their places for the next song. Fade the music when all are ready.)*

Song The Lunchtime Frontline

(CD track 6 & 35, lyrics p34)

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