2 Match sentences A–F to gaps 1–5 in the article. There is one sentence that you do not need.

A Police officers are not going to leave schools anytime soon.

B If they don't pay, their children will go to prison when they are seventeen.

C It's got a big sports hall, a nice canteen, a good library and well-equipped classrooms.

D The officer took out his gun and threatened a girl because she did not show respect.

E What happened there shocked people all over the country.

F The boy had learning difficulties and didn't understand what the police were saying.

War Zones

Fulmore Middle School in Texas is an ordinary school that teaches the usual subjects. [1] _____ **When the bell rings at break time, children walk out of the classrooms past teachers, monitors ... and police officers. 'Yes, there are police in our school,' says one fourteen-year-old student. 'They've got pepper spray and they've got guns and they will use them.'**

Police officers in American schools are nothing new. In the 1990s, there was a rise in juvenile and gang-related crime and newspapers started to report on a 'lost generation'. They talked about unhappy, out-of-control children, irresponsible parents and schools which were like war zones. Then, in 1999, the unthinkable happened. Two students from Colorado shot twelve other students and a teacher at school. [2] _____ Everyone wanted protection for their children, and police officers in schools were the answer.

Nowadays, police still protect schools, and in many schools, there is a zero tolerance policy*. This means that you can get into trouble for even small offences. Police officers arrest people for violence and bringing illegal drugs or weapons into school, but they can also arrest them for throwing paper planes or being impolite. 'If a student behaves badly, the police officer will punish offenders and give them a ticket,' explains one student. The ticket might say you have to pay a fine, or appear in court. The fines can be up to $500, and many poorer parents don't have the money. [3] _____ These students will get a criminal record, and when they leave prison, it'll be impossible for them to get a job or go to college. This record will destroy their lives, and all because they did something wrong at school. Unfortunately, the situation isn't going to change. [4] _____ 'We need police in school,' says a twelve-year-old student at Fulmore. 'In my school, it can get physical and it can turn out very bad.' However, statistics tell us what happened in Colorado was unusual. Most schools do not face a serious threat of violence, and police officers often only deal with 'naughty' or immature students. School is not like the outside world. Children don't usually commit terrible crimes. Severe punishments for small offences may do more harm than good. In one incident, police officers pepper-sprayed a sixteen-year-old student when he didn't respond to an order. [5] _____ When they pepper-sprayed him, he started swinging his arms around in pain and hit one of the officers by accident. Now the police are charging him with assault*, and he will probably spend time in prison. Police officers in schools may well be protecting some lives, but are they destroying others?

* zero tolerance policy = punishing all bad behaviour, even when it is not serious
* assault = when someone attacks another person