

Grooming case highlights child safety concerns on Roblox

The *Mirror* highlights growing concerns over the safety of children on the gaming platform Roblox, following the sentencing of 19-year-old Carlo Tritta to 28 months in prison for using the platform to groom a 14-year-old victim. Roblox is currently facing a number of lawsuits over safeguarding, both over grooming and other forms of exploitation and over the use of the platform's development tools to create inappropriate content based on school shootings and sex trafficking. A spokesperson for The Cyber Helpline says safety settings on online platforms "are not always fully understood, consistently applied or robust enough", while there are "challenges around moderation and enforcement of platform policies", with larger platforms "too often reactive rather than preventative".

Mirror.co.uk

Government funds school training to tackle knife crime

Up to 250 schools in areas with high knife crime will receive specialist training funded by a £1.2m government investment aimed at diverting children from violence. The initiative includes mentoring for at-risk students and chaperones, amidst an ambition to halve knife crime over the next decade. Recent data shows a 9% decline in knife crime in 2025. The partnership, led by the Youth Endowment Fund, will use new mapping technology to target interventions effectively, with a focus on improving pupil safety and building support systems within schools. Additionally, the initiative will establish eight young futures hubs in regions with high antisocial behaviour. Jon Yates, CEO of the Youth Endowment Fund, clarified: "We know what works to prevent knife crime – a trusted adult, someone to talk to." The programme will begin with an early engagement this school year, followed by more intensive support in the next academic year. Critics, including the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, argue that these measures are insufficient and blame the government for police cuts.

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Schools urged to strengthen security under new guidance

New UK anti-terror guidance under Martyn's Law will provide schools with clearer expectations for preparing for potential attacks as part of wider measures for public venues. Schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to implement safety plans, including lockdown drills, risk assessments, and staff training to respond to threats. The guidance comes ahead of the law taking effect next year, which will require larger venues to have formal security measures in place. Some educational institutions have already begun adopting these practices early, reflecting growing emphasis on preparedness and student safety following past incidents. The guidance follows a two-year consultation and aims to prevent future tragedies like the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing.

Daily Mirror

Government to ban smartphones in schools

Schools will be required to ban smartphones under new government plans, replacing previous non-statutory guidance with a clear legal obligation. While headteachers have until now used a range of approaches to manage phone use, the policy shift aims to standardise rules unless schools can justify exceptions. Announced in the House of Lords, the move responds to growing concerns from parents and campaigners, though some argue it does not go far enough. Experts warn that effective enforcement will be key, including ensuring schools have adequate funding to implement the measures, as ministers say the change will support improved behaviour and academic outcomes. On Monday, Baroness Smith told the Lords that ministers "recognise the strength of feeling on this issue, both in this House and beyond".

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