

SG BULLETIN 1 2026-27

Campaign to raise awareness of weapons in primary schools

Simply Active, founded by former teacher David Simmons, has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the growing number of primary school-aged children who are taking weapons into schools. Figures from the Safeguarding and Child Protection Association show that around a tenth of incidents in schools that involve knives involve primary-aged pupils, and Mr Simmons said: "Most people associate knife carrying with teenagers, but our experience shows that some children are being exposed to these influences much earlier. This campaign is about encouraging awareness and starting conversations before problems escalate."

Daily Mirror

Record number of children referred to Prevent

New Home Office figures reveal that a record number of children were referred to the Prevent anti-radicalisation programme in the year to September - with 10,293 referrals made for 9,957 people in the year to September, up 39% year-on-year, including 393 children under 10 and a further 3,655 aged 11-15. The Home Office said that referrals for extreme right-wing ideology represented the biggest single category, up 42% year-on-year to account for 20% of the total, while referrals for Islamist extremism fell 9%, accounting for 8% of the total. Security minister Dan Jarvis said the Government "will continue to improve Prevent to ensure it has the tools it needs to do its job of stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. We all have a role to play in keeping each other safe and spotting the signs of radicalisation."

Financial Times Daily Express Daily Mirror The I

More than 15k weapons surrendered in the last year

New figures released by the Home Office have revealed that 14,500 knives and other weapons have been dropped in surrender bins operated by the charity Word 4 Weapons over the last year - with a further 783 weapons handed in to a mobile surrender van operated by FazAmnesty. Pooja Kanda, Caroline Wilgoose and Martin Cosser, whose children were murdered by other teenagers, have welcomed the figures, which have come alongside a drop in the rate of knife crime. Overall knife crime is down 11% since the last general election, while the number of knife killings in 2025/26, 176, was the lowest since 1991. Elsewhere, the Daggers Down campaign, set up by Wolverhampton Youth MP Sienna Ahir, has installed bleed control kits in council-run leisure centres in the city.

BBC News Daily Mirror Mirror.co.uk

Charity calls for primary school education on illegal vapes

Drug and alcohol education charity Hope UK has called for primary school-aged children to receive education to help them steer clear of synthetic cannabinoids like spice that are increasingly being sold in vape form. Pointing to a **University of Bath** study which identified spice in 13% of a sample of e-cigarettes and e-liquids found in English schools, the charity's chief executive Sarah Brighton said the "main problem we're finding with spice-laced vapes is that children are completely unaware of the risks". "Buying an illegal vape from an unscrupulous seller on your high street is not the only way to obtain them", she warned, "as they are easily available via the internet. This is why awareness raising is so vital from quite a young age. Because we're seeing children in primary school bringing these vapes into school."

Daily Express Daily Mirror Mirror.co.uk

Children are not safe online, warns NCA chief

National Crime Agency director Graeme Biggar has warned that children cannot currently use the internet safely, saying two generations of teenagers have been failed by inadequate social media regulation. The NCA received 92,000 reports of suspected online child abuse from technology companies last year - four times the number recorded seven years earlier - and more than 12,000 in the latest month alone. Reports are also becoming more severe, involving increasingly young victims and, in some cases, children abusing other children. The agency receives about 25 daily reports linked to Roblox, 50 from Discord, 75 involving Instagram and 100 concerning Snapchat. Biggar urged technology companies and regulators to act more quickly, warning that encrypted messaging can make abuse harder to detect.

The Daily Telegraph

Online predators target vulnerable children in support groups

Experts have warned that online predators are infiltrating gaming chats, eating-disorder groups and self-harm communities to identify vulnerable children before moving them into private spaces for abuse or radicalisation. Some victims are coerced into recruiting or harming their peers, while abusive "Com" groups have been linked to sexual exploitation, animal cruelty, livestreamed self-harm and suicide. Children's commissioner Dame Rachel de Souza has called for stronger platform safeguards and urgent reform of Prevent, noting that referrals involving children rose from 2,918 in 2016–17 to 4,715 in 2024–25, with most cases lacking a clear ideology. Experts said age verification alone is insufficient and urged stronger moderation and cross-platform sharing of threat signals.

The Times

Parliament warned of 'mental health distress'

Suicide has become the leading cause of death among 10 to 17-year-olds in the UK, according to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The NHS is facing a crisis, with over 75,000 children attending A&E for mental health issues in 2025, a significant increase from 2019. Experts warn that children are often left without adequate support, leading to prolonged stays in hospitals and worsening mental health outcomes. Dr Samantha Jones told a parliamentary committee session: "Our children are dying on our watch from their mental health distress."

Daily Mirror The Times