Nearly five sexual crimes are reported each day against under-13s

A *Guardian* analysis has found at least 8,500 sexual offences against children aged 12 and under were recorded at or near English and Welsh schools between 2021 and 2025 - around 4.7 daily. Nearly 2,000 were rapes or attempted rapes, while at least 1,890 offences were committed by someone under 18. Girls accounted for almost two-thirds of cases where victims' sex was recorded. Lawyers and campaigners described the scale as alarming and called for stronger safeguarding, reporting and preventive action. The data indicates reported allegations, not proven offences, and often did not record alleged perpetrators' ages. Commenting on the figures, Andrew Lord, a partner with Leigh Day, said: "Those in authority can no longer claim that they were not aware of how prevalent an issue this is. Parents deserve to know that their children are safe while undertaking their education, and anything short of concrete action to tackle this problem is simply not good enough."

The Guardian

Sextortion safety lessons to start at 10

Children as young as 10 will be taught how to avoid online sextortion scams through a Home Office-backed scheme. The department is funding classes that extend specific online-safety education to primary-age pupils. Parents will also receive information about the online dangers children may encounter. The lessons will advise young people how to recognise and avoid scammers using sextortion tactics, with schools and families receiving guidance through the same government-supported initiative.

The Daily Telegraph

Predators groom children through school devices

Children as young as 14 are being groomed by sexual predators through laptops and iPads issued by their schools, according to an investigation by *The Daily Telegraph*. Dozens of parents have reported minors being exposed to adult content on devices supplied for education. The cases involve predators using school-issued technology intended for lessons and learning to contact children. Parents' accounts indicate that access to adult material and grooming can occur on both laptops and iPads, despite the devices having been provided specifically for educational use.

The Daily Telegraph

AI child abuse reports surge 8,400%

Reports of AI-generated child sexual abuse material rose by more than 8,400% in two years, from about 4,700 in 2023 to more than 400,000 in 2025, Childlight has found. The institute examined technology companies' reports across three global regions. Childlight estimates more than 300m children worldwide experience technology-facilitated sexual exploitation or abuse annually.

The Guardian

Trott backs strict school screen limits

Shadow education secretary Laura Trott has backed clinician guidance recommending no screen time in early years, minimal use in primary schools and a two-hour daily limit across school and home for secondary pupils. Almost 1m children reportedly use devices in every lesson, while another 2.6m use screens daily within the curriculum. Trott said excessive exposure can harm eyesight, sleep, physical health, speech and emotional regulation while notifications undermine concentration.

The Times