

Keegan admits transgender guidance for schools delayed

Gillian Keegan has admitted that transgender guidance for schools will take a “little bit longer” following reports the Attorney General and Government lawyers said plans to strengthen guidance would be unlawful. The education secretary made clear they favour issuing guidance rather than a law change because “guidance is quicker than legislation”. She also said guidance will state that children should not change gender ID without schools having a conversation with parents. “Yes, we think parental consent is really very important in this,” she said. However, Geoff Barton, general secretary of the ASCL, has said the lack of guidance is “frustrating” as teachers are having to navigate the “complex and sensitive subject” of gender identity on their own. Mr Barton said: “We’ve been telling the Government that schools and colleges need clear guidance on provision for transgender and gender-questioning pupils for the past five years, so it is frustrating that it has now got to the point of producing something but appears to be locked in an internal political squabble which is causing a further delay.” He added: “Clear, practical guidance on this matter is important as long as it is genuinely supportive to schools and pupils and does not add to the existing and onerous expectations on schools.”

[The Daily Telegraph](#) [The Times](#) [London Evening Standard](#) [The Guardian](#) [The Independent UK](#)

Decline in teenage pregnancy linked to changing lifestyles

The growth in popularity of mobile phones and social media is believed to be a contributing factor to the significant decrease in teenage pregnancy rates over the past 13 years. Scotland has seen a two-thirds drop in teenage pregnancies, from 9,632 in 2007 to 3,300 in 2020. This trend is mirrored across the UK, with changing social patterns among young people playing a role. The rise of mobile phones and social media has led to a decrease in underage drinking, which is connected to teenage pregnancy. While smartphones may have played a role in the decline, other factors such as improved educational attainment and reduced alcohol consumption also contribute.

[The Times](#)

Child abuse cases hit new high

New data shows a significant increase in reported cases of child sexual abuse in England and Wales, with nearly half of the cases occurring within families. There were 105,542 sexual offences recorded against children in the year up to March. The Home Office figures have been analysed for the BBC by the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre), which studies the causes, impact and scale of abuse. The centre says greater awareness is a key reason for a 57% increase in recorded offences over six years. Across England and Wales, only 12% of reported offences result in charges - according to the CSA Centre - and it typically takes nearly two years for those to get to court.

[BBC News](#)

Vaping among students prompts action against county lines drug dealers

The father of Damilola Taylor, Richard Taylor, has called on Scotland Yard chief Sir Mark Rowley to address the issue of county lines drug dealers using vapes to recruit children as young as 11. Teachers have reported repeated targeting of pupils at school gates in south London, with e-cigarettes being confiscated. Mr Taylor emphasised the addictive nature of

e-cigarettes and how drug dealers exploit this to involve children in drug trafficking. The Metropolitan Police's county lines taskforce has visited classrooms to educate children about the dangers of drug dealers. Schools have also taken measures to address the rise in vaping among students.

Evening Standard