

Education Policy, Children and Violence

Summary of recommendations

		COST
1	Amend Pupil Premium guidance in England and Pupil Development Grant guidance in Wales to explicitly encourage schools and AP/EOTAS settings to invest in evidence-based violence reduction. Why? • Education settings currently lack sufficient knowledge on how to reduce children's involvement in violence. • Violence and the fear of violence can negatively impact educational outcomes.	£0
2	Provide £100m of targeted funding over five years to deliver evidence-based violence reduction activities for children most at risk of involvement in violence (via SAFE or a new TARGET fund). Why? • A lack of funding is preventing education settings from investing in evidence-based violence reduction activities to support the children who are most in need. • Violence is concentrated in specific areas, so funding should be targeted at high-violence areas.	£100m (over five years)
3	Amend Ofsted's proposed inspection toolkits to assess how settings support suspended children and safeguard children from violence. Why? • Suspension and exclusion are key risk factors for later involvement in violence. The rates of both are rising, with clear racial disparities persisting. • Schools are not currently providing enough support to suspended children. • Education settings are uniquely placed to safeguard children from involvement in violence. However, they often fail to see violence as a safeguarding issue.	£0
4	Extend the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST) for five years in England and begin piloting it in Wales. Why? • Children in AP are at greater risk of involvement in violence. • APST reduces children's absence (reducing their risk of involvement in violence).	£32m over five years in England £1.6m for a one-year pilot in Wales

COST

5 Pilot and scale up a violence against women and girls (VAWG) lead training grant in secondary schools, colleges and AP/EOTAS settings.

Why?

- Far too many children are experiencing relationship violence.
- Relationship violence prevention activities can protect children from involvement in violence.
- Too few children report receiving lessons on topics such as consent, harassment and healthy relationships.
- Teachers currently lack the confidence and expertise to teach children about relationship violence.

£1m for a pilot in 50 settings

£35m for full scale up in England; £2m for full scale up in Wales

COST

6 Reform the current National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) to include a focus on protecting children from violence and establish a new NPQ for keeping children safe.

Why?

- Education settings play a key role in safeguarding children from violence.
- Current safeguarding training fails to provide teachers and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) with the confidence and knowledge to safeguard children who are involved in or impacted by violence.

£0 for NPQ reforms

To fund DSLs to complete the new NPQ in targeted settings: £2m in England, £100k in Wales

COST

7 Scale up impactful attendance improvement interventions and publish a strategy to improve attendance in AP in England and EOTAS in Wales.

Why?

- Absence from education increases a child's risk of later involvement in violence (particularly for the most vulnerable children).
- Clear racial disparities in attendance rates persist.
- Attendance in AP is significantly worse compared to mainstream schools.

Cost of attendance improvement interventions to be updated in Autumn 2025

£0 for an AP/EOTAS strategy

COST

8 The Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education in England and the Welsh Government should publish a joint strategy to improve education received by children in custody across England and Wales.

Why?

- Education in youth custody is unacceptably poor and requires urgent government attention.
- Providing high-quality education could reduce the likelihood of re-offending.
- There are clear racial disparities in the intake of youth custody; poor education, therefore, has a disproportionate impact on particular communities.

£0