

Safeguarding Updates

Information	Link
Talk Relationships Source: NSPCC Learning Date published: 26 October 2025 NSPCC Learning has published re-designed lesson plans in Welsh for Talk Relationships. Talk Relationships supports UK secondary education settings to confidently deliver inclusive sex and relationships education. The lesson plan around preventing gender-based violence is now available in Welsh for the first time.	Download the lesson plans: Talk Relationships
Teenage boys' wellbeing Source: Male Allies UK Date published: 30 October 2025 Male Allies UK has published new research on how adolescent boys feel about being a boy in today's society, exploring their views on topics including gender, relationships and technology. The research involved surveys and listening sessions with 1,032 11- to 16-year-old boys in secondary schools across England, Scotland and Wales. Interviews with a small sample of parents were also held. Key findings include: a lack of physical spaces for boys to be with their peers, encouraging more time online; boys are prone to loneliness and use technology to make and maintain friendships, with chatbots being used by some for emotional support, friendships and romantic relationships; and boys are watching a varied set of online influencers including 'manosphere influencers', but 79% aren't clear what 'masculinity' means. Recommendations include: creating more youth programmes and initiatives for boys; better support for parents and teachers to help them understand technology and support young people with critical thinking and digital literacy skills; greater regulation to ensure technology companies prioritise children's wellbeing; and making sure boys know that feminism and allyship is good for them too.	Read the news story: The voice of the boys: How boys in secondary school education feel about being a boy today
Online safety Source: More in Common Date published: 29 October 2025 More in Common, a think tank and research agency, has published research findings on British parents' opinions of their children's online safety based on a survey of 2,012 parents of children aged 17-years-old and under. Findings include: parents are deeply concerned about their children's online safety; parents feel they are struggling to keep their children safe online with a third saying that setting limits on children's digital use leads to conflict; and there is strong support for new laws and action from tech companies, with 77% of parents in the survey supporting comprehensive age verification and 78% wanting more action on algorithms.	Read the report: Parents talk online safety See also on NSPCC Learning > Preventing online harm and abuse
Online wellbeing Source: Nuffield Foundation Date published: 21 October 2025	Read the report: Growing up online Read the news story: What Gen Z do

The Nuffield Foundation has published research on the experiences of young people aged 14- to 24-years-old growing up online. Drawing on large-scale surveys, existing research, and insights from young people, the research explores levels of access to digital technologies and how young people spend their time online. It also discusses how digital technologies relate to experiences of 'growing up', including relationships with others; individual identity formation; mental health and wellbeing; and exposure to online harms. Findings include: there is no unified experience of growing up online, with young people experiencing both benefits and harms from digital technologies; being part of communities that are often marginalised or minoritised appears to impact an individual's experiences with digital technology; and while many young people have encountered potentially harmful content online, some young people report taking active measures to protect themselves such as setting time limits on specific applications and proactively taking breaks from digital devices.	<u>online and why, matters more than screentime</u>
Physical abuse Source: The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Date published: 28 October 2025 NICCY has published a report on strengthening the case for equal protection from assault for children in Northern Ireland. The report draws on evidence and best practice across Europe to highlight the need for legislative reform on the physical punishment of children and young people. The research highlights the importance of embedding this change within a wider framework of family and parenting support, ensuring that parents are empowered and supported in non-violent approaches to raising children.	Download the report: <u>Closing the legal gap: learning from Europe – strengthening the case for equal protection from assault in Northern Ireland</u> See also on NSPCC Learning > <u>Protecting children from physical abuse</u>
Child criminal exploitation Source: Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Date published: 15 October 2025 The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland has published a review on addressing child criminal exploitation (CCE) in Northern Ireland. Drawing on data from literature reviews, statistical data and surveys, the report investigates the prevalence, context, and organisational readiness to address CCE. Selected findings include: CCE in Northern Ireland uniquely intersects with contextual harms including deprivation, community violence, and paramilitary influence; there are significant gaps in professional systems, training, and strategic responses; confidence in data recording, National Referral Mechanism (NRM) usage, and CCE-specific training is low; and data storage, recording, reporting and information sharing emerged as areas of critical importance, along with staff supervision and support. The report provides specific recommendations to strengthen organisation readiness, improve training, and enhance identification and information sharing systems.	Download the report: <u>A review of child criminal exploitation and organisational readiness in Northern Ireland</u> See also on NSPCC Learning > <u>Protecting children from child criminal exploitation</u>

World children’s day: digital futures for children – children’s rights under pressure in the digital environment This conference, organised by the Digital Futures for Children centre, Department of Media and Communications at LSE and 5Rights Foundation, takes place on Thursday 20 November 2025 6.30pm - 8pm online and in person in London.	Find out more: LSE Events
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