

## 1. 'Life in Likes' schools

January 2018

The Children's Commissioner for England is today launching this new report on the impact of social media on the lives of children before they become teenagers. Whilst most social media sites have an official age limit of 13 years, some research has suggested  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 10 -12 year olds have a social media account. Today's report reveals many children are approaching a 'cliff edge' as they transition from primary to secondary school, with social media becoming much more important in their lives but causing them greater anxiety. The study suggests some children are becoming almost addicted to 'likes' as a form of social validation that makes them happy and that many are increasingly anxious about their online image and 'keeping up appearances'. Anne Longfield is calling on schools and parents to prepare children for this change towards the end of primary school. She also calls for compulsory digital literacy and online resilience lessons for Year 6 and 7s, so that they learn about the emotional side of social media and not just messages about safety.

**Link:** <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2018/01/04/children-unprepared-for-social-media-cliff-edge-as-they-start-secondary-school-childrens-commissioner-for-england-warns-in-new-report/>

## 2. Sales of acid: voluntary commitments for retailer

This document outlines the voluntary set of commitments on the responsible sales of corrosive substances. The intention is to restrict access to products containing acid and other corrosive substances which are being used as weapons to threaten or to attack people and inflict life-changing injuries. Major retailers who have signed up so far are: Wickes, B&Q, Screwfix, Wilko, The Co-op, Morrisons, Waitrose, Tesco and John Lewis.

**Link:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sales-of-acid-products-voluntary-commitments-for-retailers>

## 3. Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges

This advice is for: governing bodies of maintained schools and colleges, proprietors of independent schools (including academies, free schools and alternative provision academies) and non-maintained special schools, management committees of pupil referral units, headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads. It covers: what sexual violence and harassment is, schools' and colleges' legal responsibilities, a whole school or college approach to safeguarding and child protection, how to respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

**Link:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

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## 4. Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities

A practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in schools and other childcare settings

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

## 5. County lines: protecting vulnerable people from exploitation

This page provides details about the government's work to deal with county lines, which is part of the crossgovernment approach to ending gang violence and exploitation

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-protecting-vulnerable-people-from-exploitation>

## 6. Measles outbreaks confirmed in 5 areas across UK

Public Health England issues advice for the public to ensure they have had the MMR vaccine after outbreaks of measles are confirmed in 5 areas of England.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreaks-confirmed-in-leeds-liverpool-and-birmingham>

## 7. Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions

The DfE invites your views on changes to the statutory guidance Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) and a new departmental non-statutory advice document covering sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges. The consultation seeks views on revisions to KCSIE, the statutory guidance to which all schools and colleges must have regard when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. KCSIE sets out the legal duties that schools and colleges must comply with, together with good practice guidance on what schools and colleges should do in order to keep children safe. The guidance is extensive, covering what staff should know and do to safeguard children, the management of safeguarding in schools and colleges, safer recruitment and responding to allegations of abuse against staff. The department keeps its statutory guidance under review and revises it as required to keep it up to date and relevant. We are consulting on a wide variety of proposed changes to KCSIE. The aim is to help schools and colleges to better understand what they are required to do by law and what we strongly advise they should do in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other->