

1. New survey shows half of all schoolchildren feel sad or anxious every week

March 2018

Almost half of children aged from 12 to 16 in England feel sad or anxious at least once a week with worries about their future and school their biggest concerns, a survey by Barnardo's has found. By the age of 16, 70% report feeling sad or anxious at least once a week with 22% having negative feelings as much as once a day

48% of 12 year olds in England surveyed also felt this way at least once a week, with only 2% in this age group saying they never had. The survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of Barnardo's reveals what is troubling today's children and how they can be better supported

Link: http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/New-survey-shows-half-of-all-schoolchildren-feel-sad-or-anxious-every-week/press_releases.htm?ref=128176

2. Wales bans the intimate piercing of under 18s

Wales is the first country in the UK to introduce a nationwide ban on the intimate piercing of under 18s. The new law, coming into force today is making it an offence for piercing practitioners to arrange and/ or carry out an intimate piercing on under 18s. The aim of the new law is to protect children and young people from the potential health harms which can be caused by an intimate piercing. The change will come under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, prohibiting the intimate piercing of persons under 18 in Wales. It will also be an offence to 'make arrangements' to perform an intimate piercing on a child or young person under 18 in Wales. The intimate piercing of children and young people under 18 could also be considered a child protection issue. By undergoing an intimate piercing procedure, young people under the age of 18 may be placed in a vulnerable position

Link: <http://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/piercing/?lang=en>

3. Teenage pregnancy prevention framework

This framework aims to help local areas assess their teenage pregnancy prevention programmes to:

- see what's working well

- identify any gaps

- take a multi-agency whole-system approach

- to prevent unplanned pregnancies and support young people to develop healthy relationships.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teenage-pregnancy-prevention-framework>

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4. Searching, screening and confiscation

Searching

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are

knives or weapons • alcohol • illegal drugs • stolen items • tobacco and cigarette papers • fireworks • pornographic images • any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used: • to commit an offence, or • to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil). • Headteachers and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

Confiscation

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Screening

What the law allows:

- Schools can require pupils to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the pupils. • Schools' statutory power to make rules on pupil behaviour and their duty as an employer to manage the safety of staff, pupils and visitors³ enables them to impose a requirement that pupils undergo screening. • Any member of school staff can screen pupils.
- **Also note:**
- If a pupil refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to have the pupil on the premises. Health and safety legislation requires a school to be managed in a way which does not expose pupils or staff to risks to their health and safety and this would include making reasonable rules as a condition of admittance. • If a pupil fails to comply, and the school does not let the pupil in, the school has not excluded the pupil and the pupil's absence should be treated as unauthorised. The pupil should comply with the rules and attend. • This type of screening, without physical contact, is not subject to the same conditions as apply to the powers to search without consent.

Searching with consent

Schools' common law powers to search:

- School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item.

Link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searchi