



# Antisocial behaviour in Children & Young People

AS REPORTED IN PWS 2020

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The Gloucestershire Pupil Wellbeing Survey (formerly Online Pupil Survey™) (PWS) has been undertaken with children and young people (CYP) every two years since 2006. The PWS is completed by CYP in academic years Y4, Y5, Y6, Y8, Y10 and Y12. It includes CYP in mainstream primary and secondary schools, independent schools, special schools (including Alternative provision schools) and Post 16 colleges. The survey asks questions on a wide range of topics. In 2020 the survey completion period was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of schools however just over 20,000 CYP completed the survey.

The analysis in this report uses results from the PWS 2020 unless otherwise indicated.

The Metropolitan Police state

**“Antisocial behaviour is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person'”<sup>1</sup>**

They identify 3 types of anti-social behaviour:

- **Personal antisocial behaviour** is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- **Nuisance antisocial behaviour** is when a person causes trouble,

annoyance or suffering to a community.

- **Environmental antisocial behaviour** is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

There are likely to be many contributing factors to why a person partakes in antisocial behaviour such as peer rejection, peer pressure, uncomfortable social situations and other outside factors.

Antisocial behaviour in CYP can include; verbally and physically harming other people, violating social expectations, engaging in behaviours such as delinquency, vandalism, theft, and truancy, or having disturbed interpersonal relationships.

Recent analysis of a German study<sup>2</sup> concluded,

*“...that stronger self-efficacy and worse family climate were each related to stronger antisocial behaviour.*

*Longitudinal data revealed that more severe parental mental health problems, worse family climate at baseline, deteriorating family climate over time, and more social support were each associated with increasing antisocial behaviour over time.”*

Antisocial behaviour in CYP is therefore likely to be a warning flag that there are significant challenges in a CYPs life and that their home life may be chaotic.

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<sup>1</sup> Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. <https://www.met.police.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> Risk and resource factors of antisocial behaviour in children and adolescents: results of the

longitudinal BELLA study 2021

<https://capmh.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13034-021-00412-3>

## Personal antisocial behaviour

### Bullying

Overall, 6.6% of children & young people (CYP) reported being the victim of hate speech/crime<sup>3</sup>. CYP who had been a victim of a hate speech/crime were more likely to be of BAME background, no difference was observed for those living in a deprived area, or by sex. Victims of hate speech/crime were more likely to report low mental wellbeing (2 in 3 vs. 1 in 3 of those who didn't report being a victim of hate speech/crime) and more likely to report being persistently absent from school or excluded.

Exclusion data<sup>4</sup> from 2020/21 showed 0.1% of exclusions were for abuse relating to sexuality or gender and a further 2.1% was for racism/racist abuse; 0.5% of exclusions were for sexual mis-conduct.

Data from the PWS suggests 1 in 7 excluded children had experienced hate speech/crime compared with 1 in 15 children who had not been excluded.

7.3% of CYP reported being bullied regularly (Quite often (weekly)/Most days) in the previous 12 months.

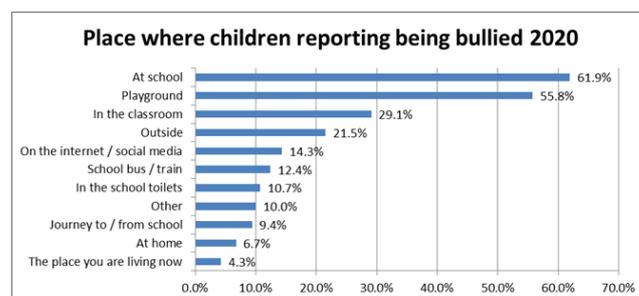
Nearly twice as many primary age pupils (9.4%) reported being seriously bullied frequently in the last year than secondary age pupils (5.7%). Similarly, 1 in 10 secondary children who had an exclusion were bullied frequently compared to 1 in 20 of those with no exclusions.

1 in 9 children had experienced Verbal bullying, the same proportion had experienced Physical bullying, this increased

to 1 in 2 of those reporting being seriously bullied regularly.

1 in 20 children had experienced Cyber bullying, this rose to 1 in 5 of those reporting being seriously bullied regularly.

The majority of CYP reported bullying happened at school.



The top 5 reasons given for the bullying occurring were:

- Other reasons
- Your personality
- Rumours about you
- Don't know
- Size

This was the same in 2018 and 2020.

### Violence

7% of CYP report they are often aggressive or violent. In 2020/21 6.3% of exclusions were for *Physical assault against adult* and 17.2% were for *Physical assault against pupil*.

<sup>3</sup> Experiencing regular serious bullying because of their; skin colour, home language, sexuality,

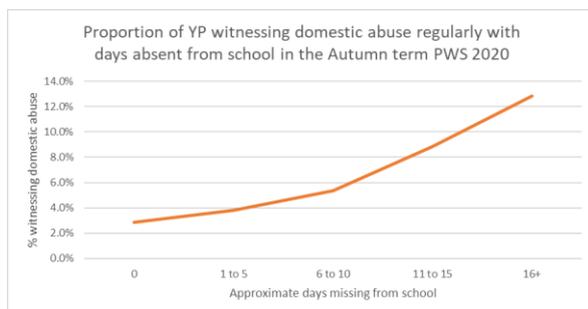
gender identity, religion, disability. Secondary and FE pupils only.

<sup>4</sup> As collected on Capita



1 in 5 CYP reported ever witnessing domestic abuse, 4.5% of CYP reported witnessing domestic abuse regularly (Quite often (weekly)/Most days). The proportion of CYP reporting regularly witnessing domestic abuse decreases as deprivation levels decrease and is lowest in CYP at Independent (2.7%) and selective schools (3.5%). Reports of domestic abuse was higher in Stroud district (by location of school attended) although there was no significant difference between districts.

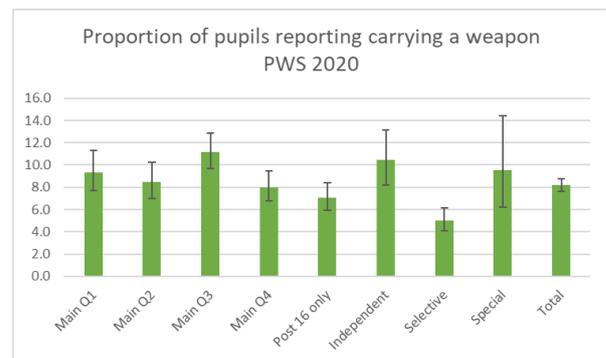
CYP who witness domestic abuse are more likely to be persistently absent and less likely to report enjoying school (34% vs 61% of those who do not report witnessing domestic abuse).



<sup>5</sup> CYP are asked to enter the biological sex they were born; they are subsequently asked if their gender aligns with this. Unless stated 'male' and 'female' refers to those reporting it is their biological sex.

### Carrying a weapon

8.2% of CYP reported carrying a weapon. The highest reported level of carrying a weapon (11.2%) was in mainstream schools where the majority of pupils lived in quartile 3 deprivation (where quartile 1 is most deprived and quartile 4 is least deprived), this was significantly higher than the county average (8.2%). Weapon carrying was also reported as being high in independent schools (10.4%) but was not statistically significantly higher than the county average. CYP at selective grammar schools were significantly less likely to report carrying a weapon (5%) than the county average and all other school stratification groups.



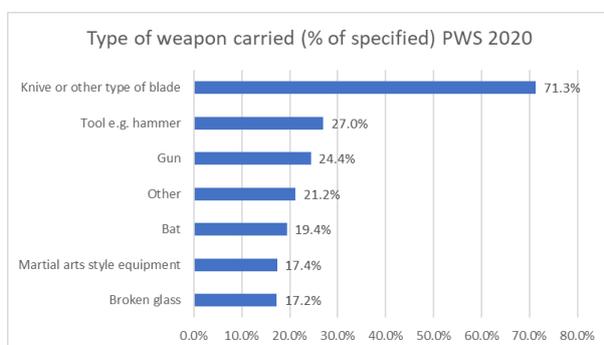
CYP attending schools in Cotswold district were significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon (12%) than the county average, pupils attending schools in Gloucester district were significantly less likely to report carrying a weapon.

Males<sup>5</sup> were two and a half times more likely to report carrying a weapon than females. BAME CYP were significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon than their white British peers. This was mainly driven by CYP from *Other white*<sup>6</sup> ethnic backgrounds who

<sup>6</sup> Other white category includes white Eastern European, white western European, other white, white Irish, Gypsy/Roma, traveller of Irish heritage

were significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon (14.6%) than the county average. This was particularly prevalent in *Gypsy/Roma* (26.2%), *Traveller of Irish heritage* (37.5), and *white other* (15.2%) ethnic groups. CYP from Black, Asian, and Mixed backgrounds weren't significantly more likely to report carrying a weapon than white British CYP.

The most common weapon carried by CYP was a knife or bladed object (71%). Worryingly a quarter of CYP who reported carrying a weapon said they had carried a gun.



1.8% of exclusions in 2020/21 were for use or threat of a weapon.

### Exclusions

15.3% of CYP reported having at least one internal or external exclusion. A significantly higher proportion of CYP from the following groups reported being excluded:

- Those bullied regularly
- Those known to social care
- Those with a disability
- Those receiving SEN support
- Young carers
- Those eligible for FSM
- Those with low mental wellbeing
- Those identifying as LGBTQ+

Compared to children with no exclusion history children who have been excluded are:

More likely to engage in risky behaviours -

- 10.8 times more likely to be in trouble with the police
- 3.7 times more likely to have Early sexual debut
- 2.2 times more likely to self-harm
- 4.8 times more likely to perpetrate violence

More likely to engage in health harming behaviours -

- 2.3 times more likely to drink alcohol regularly
- 5.6 times more likely to smoke cigarettes regularly
- 4.4 times more likely to use drugs

More likely to disengage from education –

- 2.3 times more likely to have frequent absenteeism
- 2.1 times more likely to report not achieving
- 1.5 times more likely to not be confident about the future

40% of children who reported at least one exclusion said they were not listened to in the process and did not have a say in what happened afterwards. 41% of children who reported at least one exclusion said nothing changed afterwards.

1 in 2 children who reported at least one exclusion said if there is an incident or issue at school pupils weren't listened to or involved in making it right compared to 1 in 3 children who had not been excluded. When children had been excluded, they were less likely to have someone to go to for help if they were worried than those who had no exclusion (74% vs. 85%).

CYP with an exclusion were less likely to say the food available where they lived allowed them to eat healthily (76% vs. 85%); more likely to say they spent an above average

time on screens<sup>7</sup> (1 in 2 vs. 1 in 4); less likely to say they felt safe at home or the place where they lived (80% vs. 91%) than those with no exclusion.

### Running away from home

4.8% of CYP said they had run away from home in the last 6 months. Of those the majority (59%) returned home by themselves, 11% were returned home by the Police.

CYP from *Other Black backgrounds* (13.6%), *Traveller of Irish heritage* (12.5%), and *Pakistani* (10.9%) ethnicities were more likely to report running away from home.

CYP known to social care<sup>8</sup> were 4 times more likely to say they had run away from home in the past 6 months than those not known to social care.

Pupils of schools in the Stroud district were significantly more likely to report running away from home (6.9%), all other districts were in line with the county average.



<sup>7</sup> Median hours usage per day for YP in the survey fell within 4-6 hours per day, so over 6hrs has been classified as above average usage

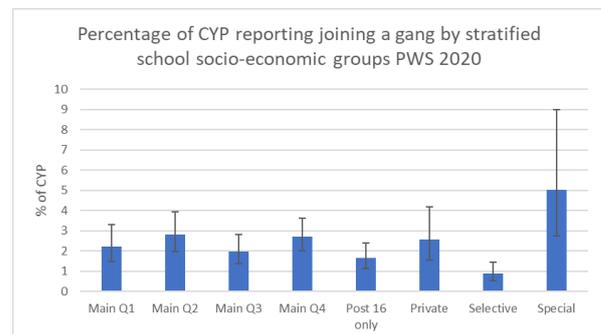
### Joining a gang

2.1% of CYP reported joining a gang, males were not significantly more likely to report being in a gang than females.

CYP known to social care were over 4 times as likely to report being in a gang than those not known to social care.

Gang membership was highest in CYP attending schools in Tewkesbury district and lowest in CYP attending schools in Cotswold district, although there was no significant difference between the districts.

There was little difference in the proportion of CYP reporting gang membership by socio-economic school group although pupils at selective grammar schools were significantly less likely to report gang membership than any other group.



<sup>8</sup> Those reporting being a CiC, a care leaver or having a family social worker

## Sexting

44% of CYP reported being involved in some kind of 'sexting'; 12% reported sending messages or pictures of a sexual nature, 25% reported receiving messages or pictures of a sexual nature, 9% reported sending sexual images of themselves, and 5% reported being blackmailed over the internet (relating to sexual images).

1 in 3 females reported receiving messages or pictures of a sexual nature compared to 1 in 5 males.

1.1% of exclusions<sup>9</sup> in 2020/21 were for *Inappropriate use-social media/tech*, whilst this is not likely to be exclusively 'sexting' a proportion of it is likely to be.



## Consent and unhealthy sexual relationships

In the PWS 2020 8.8% of CYP (in Y8 and above) report not understanding consent in a healthy relationship. The proportion reporting understanding consent increases as CYP age (probably due in part to when this is taught in the PSHE curriculum); however, males are less likely to report understanding consent than females at all ages.

17% of CYP (in Y8 and above) reported engaging in sexual activity; 56% had their first sexual experience below the age of 16. 1

in 10 CYP who had engaged in sexual activity felt they couldn't say no to partaking in sexual activity.

The vast majority (78%) of those who had engaged in sexual activity had had intercourse (13% of all CYP Y8 and above). Where age was given 58% of CYP who had intercourse had Early Sexual Debut (ESD), intercourse under the legal age of consent. There was no difference in the level of ESD between the sexes.

17.4% of CYP who had intercourse reported using no protection the last time they had intercourse and a further 2% reported using emergency contraception after the last time they had intercourse. Males were more likely to say neither they nor their partners had used precautions during intercourse.

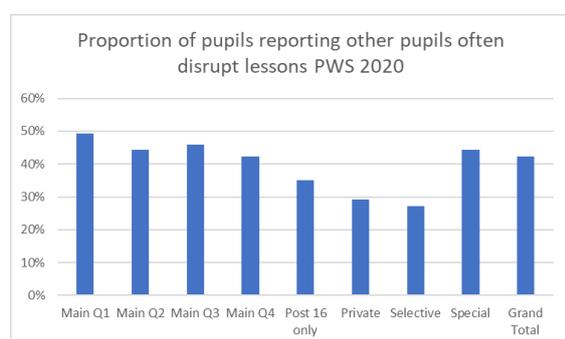
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<sup>9</sup> As recoded on Capita

## Nuisance antisocial behaviour

### Disruption in schools

42% of pupils report other pupils often disrupt their lessons however this varies significantly by the type of school and socio-economic background of pupils. The proportion reporting classroom disruption was highest in mainstream schools where the majority of pupils live in the most deprived areas (49%) and lowest in Selective grammar schools in the county (27%).



14% of males reported often being in trouble this is twice the proportion of females and is significantly different. CYP from schools where the majority of pupils are from deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to report being in trouble (15% of those in Q1 schools vs. 10% of those in Q4 schools and 6% of those at selective grammar schools).

CYP who report often being in trouble are also more likely to report low mental wellbeing than those not in trouble often (50% vs. 31%).

### Excessive alcohol consumption

45% CYP said they had tried alcohol (aged 8 to 25), 2.6% reported frequently being drunk (Quite often (weekly)/most days) which is likely to lead to more risk taking and potentially antisocial behaviours. There was no difference in being frequently drunk

between the sexes. The proportion of CYP reporting being drunk frequently increases with age, most notably between the ages of 14 and 17, over the age of 18 around 1 in 6 YP report being drunk frequently.



### Drugs taking

Over a quarter (29.5%) of YP (in Y8 and above) had ever been offered drugs<sup>10</sup>. Cannabis was cited as being the drug most often offered to YP. 17.2% of YP reported ever trying drugs; again, Cannabis was the drug they had most likely to have tried (15.5%).

The proportion of YP reporting having tried drugs was highest in schools where the majority of pupils lived in Q4 (least deprived) and lowest in schools where the majority of pupils lived in Q1 (most deprived). This is also echoed in the district breakdown; pupils at schools in Forest of Dean district, where there is relatively low deprivation, reported the highest level of drug use.

### Persistent absence from school/college

Persistent absence is when a pupil enrolment's overall absence equates to 10% or more of their possible sessions. Pupils were asked how many school days they had missed in the previous term (in the 2020 survey this would have been autumn 2019).

1 in 5 CYP reported persistent absenteeism (21.9%), 5% reported extreme absenteeism

<sup>10</sup> YP were asked about the following drugs in 2020: Cannabis, Legal Highs, Prescription drugs,

Synthetic Cannabinoids. The list of drugs has been widened in the 2022 survey.

(missing 25% or more days of schooling). CYP from BAME backgrounds were significantly more likely to be persistently absent compared to their white British peers, however this is driven by *Other white* populations; CYP from *Gypsy/Roma* (42.7%), *Traveller of Irish heritage* (50%) and *white Irish* (35.9%) backgrounds were most likely to report being persistently absent. Conversely YP from *Black African* (15.9%), *Chinese* (16.1%), *Indian* (17.3%), and *Bangladeshi* (17.7%) backgrounds were least likely to report persistent absenteeism.

Persistent absenteeism was highest in schools within Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury districts where 1 in 4 CYP reported persistent absenteeism. YP between the ages of 13 and 15 are most likely to report persistent absenteeism.



### Trouble with police

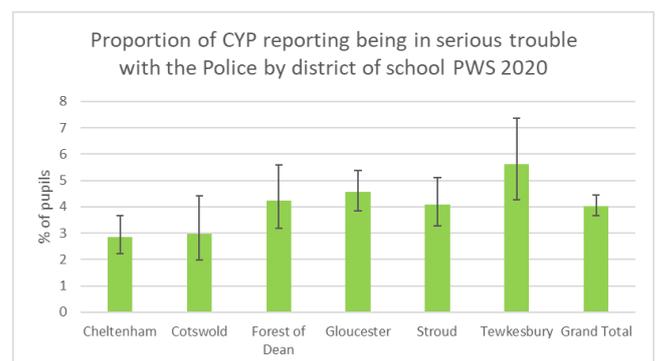
3.2% of CYP said they had been in serious trouble with the Police, males were twice as likely to report being in serious trouble with the Police than females (4.3% vs. 2%). The highest proportion by age of CYP to say they had been in serious trouble with the Police were aged 15.

CYP from the following groups were more likely to say they had been in serious trouble with the Police:

- Those known to social care

- Those with low mental wellbeing
- Those from BAME groups
- Those identifying as LGBTQ+
- Those reporting 4+ ACEs

There was no significant difference in the proportion of CYP reporting being in serious trouble with the Police by district of school, although, the proportion was highest in Tewkesbury district and lowest in Cheltenham district.



### Environmental antisocial behaviour

There are not currently specific questions relating to Environmental antisocial behaviour however some of those reporting being in serious trouble with the Police may have been engaged in environmental antisocial behaviour.

CYP who have been excluded may also have received the exclusion due to environmental anti-social behaviour. Capita exclusion data shows 110 CYP were excluded in 2020/21 for damage to property, equating to 2.8% of all exclusions in that year. In the same period 0.9% of exclusions were for theft, the YTD figures for 2021/22 suggest if exclusions for theft continue at the same rate they will have doubled by the end of the year.