

Violence Reduction Through PSHE education

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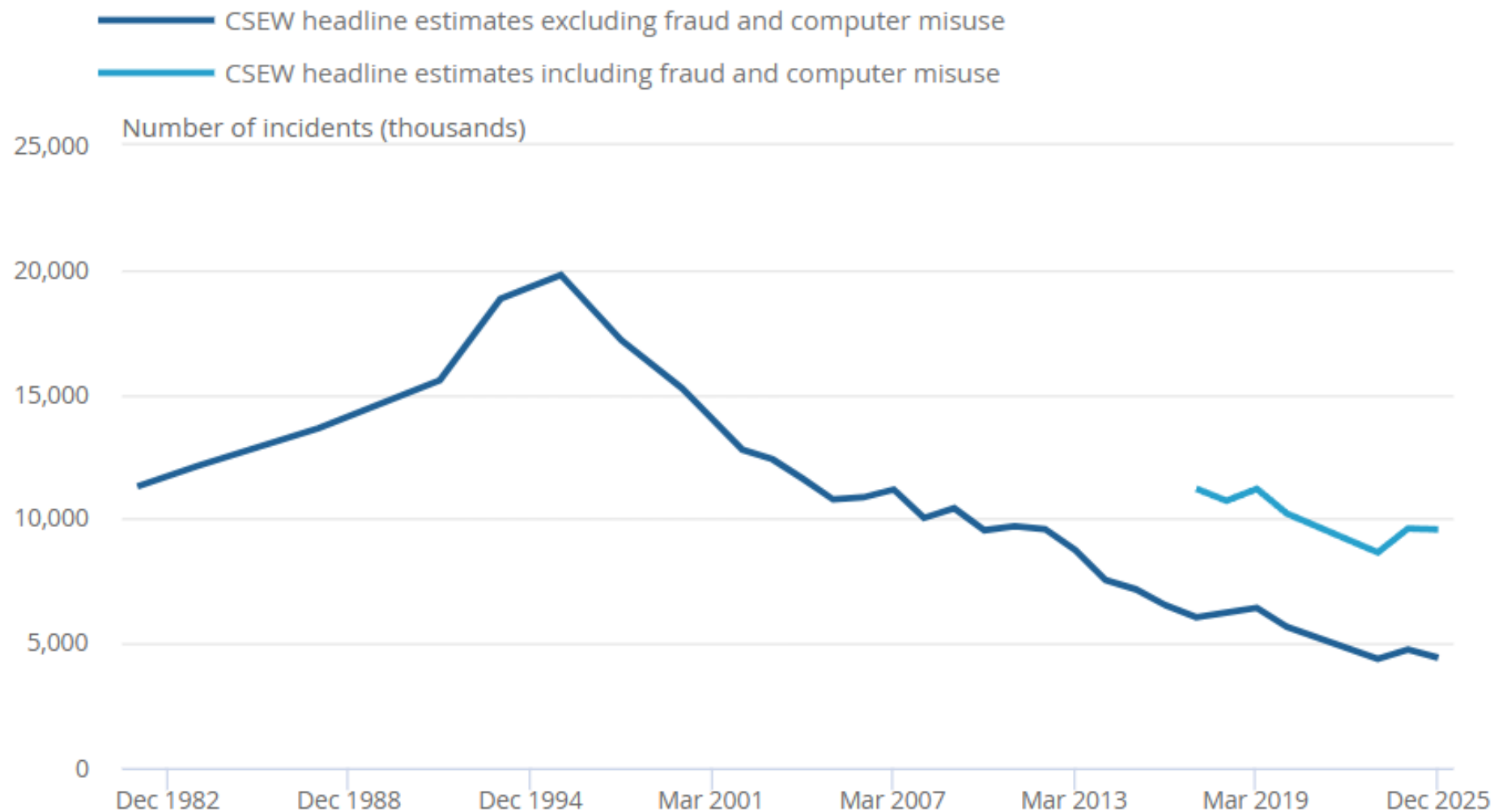
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Aims

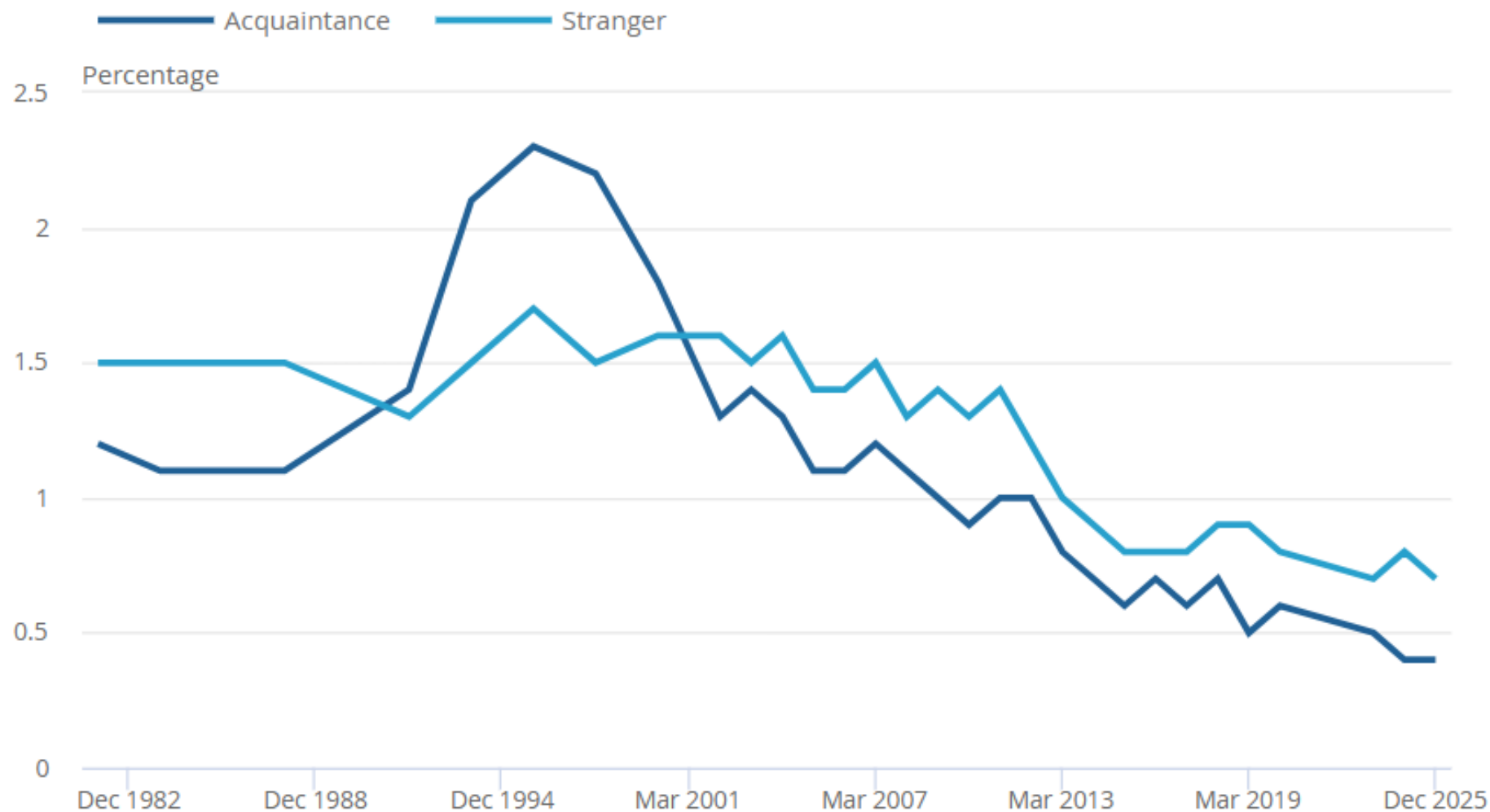
This session will look at the role PSHE plays as a universal safeguarding approach, and how that pertains particularly to preventing weapons and violence.



CSEW: Long Term Trend – All Crime

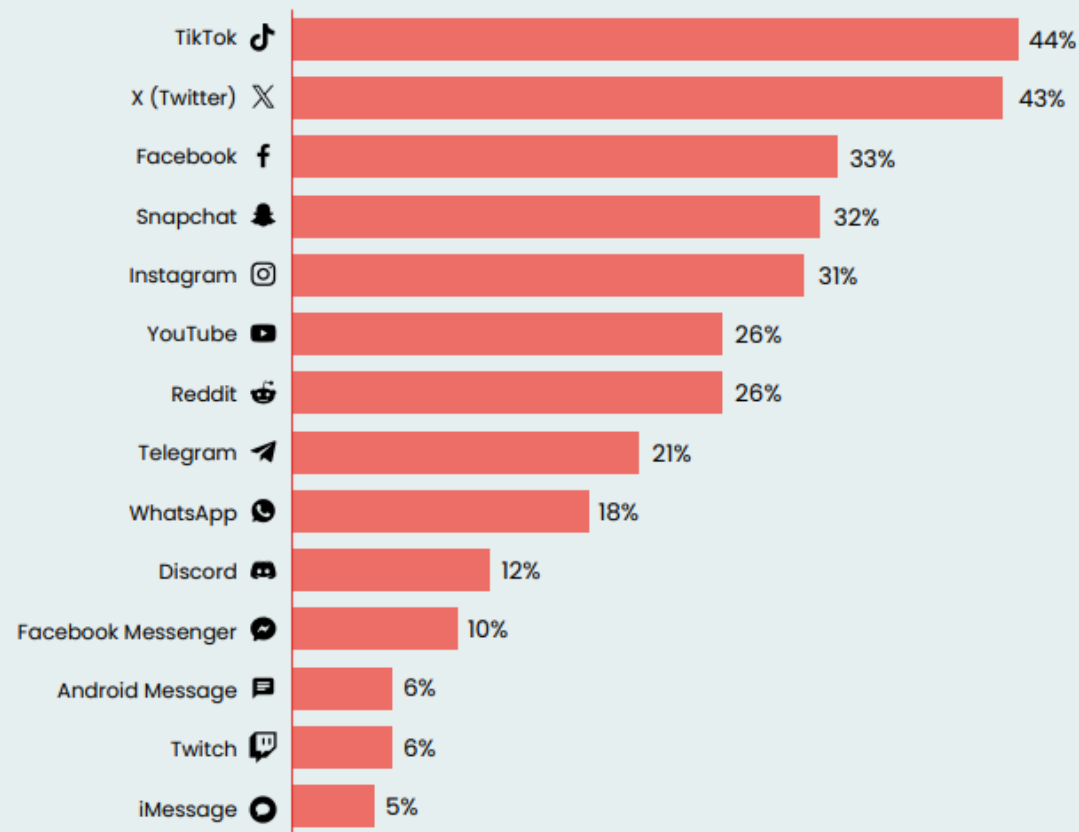


CSEW: Long Term Trend – Violent Crime



Perceptions

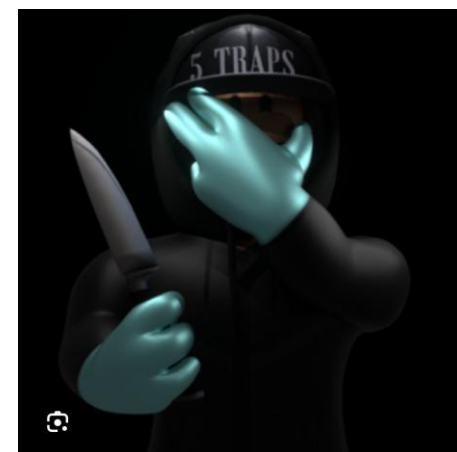
The proportion of children using social media platforms who have seen violent content



Seeing Violence Online has real-world impacts

- 80% of young people who encounter weapons-related content on social media say it makes them feel less safe in their local communities.
- 68% say it makes them less likely to venture outside.
- 58% say it made them see carrying weapons as more of a normal part of daily life
- 39% say it makes them more likely to carry a weapon themselves.

Perceptions



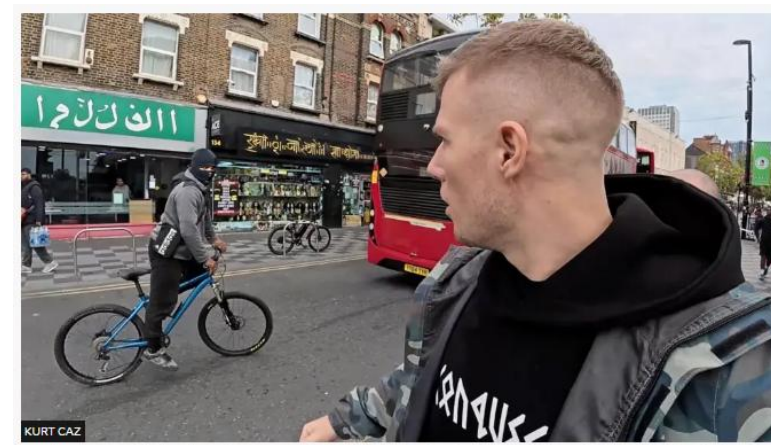
> News > Liverpool News > Toxteth

'Young people think that instead of having a fight, it's easier just to stab someone'

Headteacher's call for change as she highlights pressure on social media and gang violence



RadialB's fake videos portray grim Croydon waterparks and an arcade machine filled with knives



Arabic text was added to these shop signs and a balaclava placed on the friendly cyclist in this YouTube thumbnail



Empower pupils,
develop agency and
freedom of choice

Positive Social
Norms

Inclusive of all
learners

Distancing techniques

How do we teach to reduce gangs and weapons?



Avoid shock, fear
and guilt



Social and Emotional
Learning



Critical
Thinking



Relationship
Skills



Ground Rules

Statutory Guidance for implementation from September 2026: Key Themes



Relationships
Education,
Relationships and
Sex Education (RSE)
and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies,
proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior
leadership teams, and teachers

July 2025

Prevention

Help-seeking

Online safety,
risks and harms

Meeting the
needs of your
own context

Inclusion

Equalities

Reducing
violence against
women and girls

Parental
partnership,
transparency and
engagement

Greater emphasis
on skills
development

These themes come through all of the new RSHE content and are also reflected in the OFSTED framework, KCSIE and wider government priorities

Teaching to Prevent Weapons, Gangs and Violence:

Guidance for School Leaders, PSHE
Leaders and Teachers

A Collaboration between SIL, Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership
and Liverpool Citysafe. Produced by Julie McCann of SIL

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Webinars



Webinar 1 (Introduction & Context)

An overview of the national picture, local context and what schools need to know about weapons, gangs and serious youth violence. Includes myth-busting, statutory expectations and the foundations of trauma-informed practice.

Watch

Webinar 2 (Data vs Perceptions)

Explores national and local data, highlighting the gap between perceived and actual levels of violence. Helps staff understand why reinforcing accurate social norms is essential for prevention.

Watch

Webinar 3 (Primary Lessons & Activities)

Practical examples of age-appropriate PSHE lessons for primary settings. Includes skills-building around decision-making, empathy, confidence, boundaries, help-seeking and healthy friendships.

Watch

Webinar 4 (Secondary Lessons & Activities)

Guidance for secondary PSHE leads and teachers on delivering sensitive content safely, addressing common misconceptions, and supporting pupils' wellbeing and critical thinking.

Watch

Webinar 5 (Safe & Effective Teaching Strategies)

Covers safeguarding, emotional triggers, risk-assessing lessons, using distancing techniques, avoiding retraumatisation, handling sensitive questions and ensuring every pupil feels safe to learn.

Watch

Quiz

What percentage of 13 – 17-year-olds do you think have carried a weapon in the past year?

5% 10% 15%

What percentage of 13 – 17-year-olds do you think have carried a knife in the past year?

2% 4% 6%

A relatively small number are driven to carry weapons.

Worryingly, 5% of children aged 13 –17 say they carried a weapon in the past year. Two per cent said that they carried a knife.



Development

How might Kim feel about what has been asked?

How risky is it?

What could happen if Kim said 'yes'?

What could happen if Kim said 'no'?

What would be some good advice for Kim?





Thank You!

Our Purpose

“We advocate and deliver against needs, championing children and young people, supporting our schools and settings to enable every child and young person to be safe, develop, learn, achieve.”