



# Safeguarding children not in school

Why education matters as a protective factor



# 94 serious safeguarding incidents

reviewed by the Panel involved school-age children (4–15) who experienced abuse and neglect



# Nearly half of these children were missing some of their education

These children were more likely to experience additional vulnerabilities





# Education is a key protective factor



When children are not in school, their visibility to professionals reduces

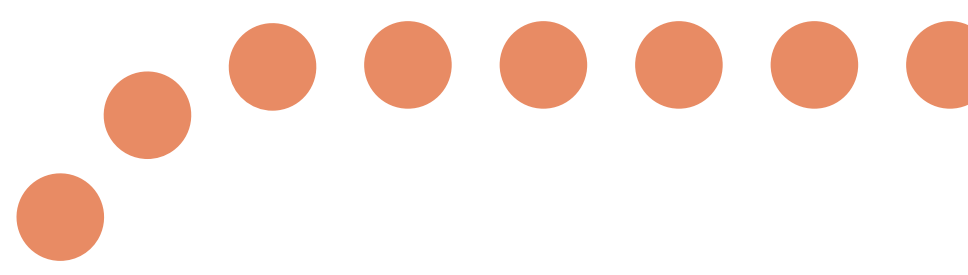


# Mental health

36% of children  
missing education  
had a mental health  
condition



17% of children in education



# Substance use

33% of children missing education had substance use issues

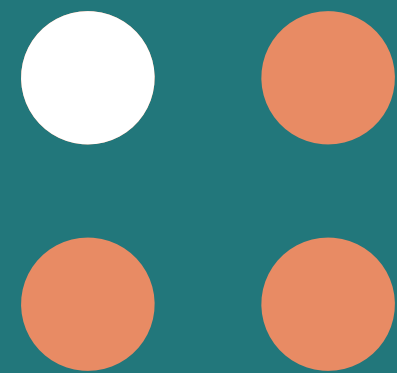
6% of children in education





# Special educational needs

24% of children missing education had SEND needs



10% of children in education



**Missing school  
can be a sign a  
child is not safe  
or supported**



# Persistent absence can be an early sign of neglect

Look for patterns:

- Irregular routines
- Missed appointments
- Changing parental explanations



# Ask about education

- Understand attendance and arrangements
- Be curious about changes over time





# Explore the full learning

Access case studies, briefings  
and practical resources:

[childsafeguarding.independent-panel.uk](https://childsafeguarding.independent-panel.uk)