# Concerns rise as discipline and safety issues increase in Welsh secondary schools



The South Wales Argus (Newport) is reporting on growing concerns over discipline and safety within Welsh secondary schools, highlighted by alarming trends in recent statistics. According to data examined by the Welsh Conservative party, fixed-term exclusions have tripled over the past seven years, indicating a significant rise in behavioural issues among pupils. Additionally, reports of physical assaults against teachers and knife-related incidents on school premises have reached their highest recorded levels, raising serious concerns about the safety of both educators and students.

The fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic has further strained relationships between parents and teachers, complicating efforts to establish and maintain a secure and effective learning environment. The Welsh Conservative shadow secretary for education, Natasha Asghar MS, spoke ahead of an upcoming parliamentary debate on the issue, voicing her party's concerns. She said, "Under Labour’s watch, the situation in our schools is deeply concerning with record levels of physical assaults on teachers, a tripling of fixed term exclusions and an increase in knife-related incidents on school grounds.

"Teachers, students and parents are all affected by the escalating lack of discipline. Immediate action is needed to reverse these trends and restore safety and order in our schools.

"We must take a firm stand against violence and misconduct to foster an environment where everyone can feel safe and pupils can thrive.

"The Welsh Conservatives are committed to enhancing the safety and well-being of students and teachers while rebuilding trust between schools and families."

The anticipated debate, scheduled for next week, will address a motion calling on the Welsh Government to adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving discipline and behaviour management within schools. The discussion is expected to focus on measures that could effectively reduce violence and misconduct, rebuild trust between educational staff and families, and create safer school environments conducive to pupil success.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.aberdareonline.co.uk/2025/04/24/breaking-welsh-conservatives-bring-forward-debate-calling-for-urgent-action-to-improve-behaviour-and-tackle-school-violence/> - This article supports the claim about the Welsh Conservatives addressing concerns over discipline and safety in Welsh schools, as they bring forward a debate on urgent action.
2. <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/safe-and-effective-intervention-use-of-reasonable-force-and-searching-for-weapons.pdf> - This document provides guidance on managing pupil behavior, including the use of force and searching for weapons, highlighting efforts to address safety issues in Welsh schools.
3. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00131245231208170> - This study explores factors influencing school discipline practices, which aligns with concerns about discipline trends and the need for comprehensive strategies in schools.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-62046409> - This link would typically discuss educational concerns in Wales, including discipline issues, but it is not provided. Consider searching BBC News Wales for similar content.
5. <https://gov.wales/education> - The Welsh Government's education page provides context on initiatives and policies aimed at improving school environments and discipline, though specific data on recent trends may not be detailed.
6. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education> - This page typically covers a wide range of educational issues in Wales, including discipline and safety concerns, providing background on the broader context.
7. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25113447.senedd-debate-behaviour-tackling-violence-schools/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data