**Social workers to work with teachers in schools**

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Social workers will be placed in schools to help spot the signs of abuse and neglect more quickly and work with teachers to support children at risk.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has announced nearly £10 million for projects aimed at boosting the educational outcomes of vulnerable children, and to keep them safe from harm.

This includes £6.5 million to involve more than 150 schools in a project that will place social workers in schools to work with teaching staff, reflecting that the second largest source of referrals to children’s social services is schools (18%).

It follows news that reports of domestic abuse incidents have been on the rise during the coronavirus pandemic.

“The stark reality is that too many children are growing up at risk of abuse and neglect. These are the most vulnerable in society, and the ones that most need our help. For these children, schools offer a safe space to get support and fulfil their potential,” said Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.

“That is why, as schools begin opening more widely and we look to the future, we must take all the steps we can to protect these children.”