

Four in 10 teachers attacked by pupils

Four out of 10 teachers have experienced violence from pupils in the past year a survey for the ATL teacher's union suggests 2016 data



Of those who had experienced violence, 77% said they had been pushed and around half were kicked or had an object thrown at them

Nine out of 10 staff had dealt with challenging behaviour, such as swearing and shouting, in the past year

Staff have greater powers to deal with poor behaviour, the government said.

However, 45% of the 1,250 strong panel of teachers surveyed across England Wales & N. Ireland said they felt behaviour had got worse in the past two years. Teachers in Scotland were not included in the survey.

Mental Health

One special needs worker at a Bedfordshire primary school said she had been stabbed in the head with a pencil, while a teacher at a Suffolk secondary academy said she had been "sprayed in the face with deodorant"

In a third case, a support worker at a secondary school in Cheshire said a chair had been thrown that hit her leg.

A teaching assistant at a Rochdale primary school claimed: staff are regularly verbally abused with very little consequences. Occasionally pupils physically attack members of staff but this rarely leads to a day's exclusion.

Teachers in the survey put the cause of violence down to a number of things

A lack of boundaries at home was singled out as the top reason for challenging disruptive or violent behaviour.

Some 78% pointed to emotional and behavioural problems as the cause, while nearly half said it was down to pupils' mental health issues

The survey responses paint a worrying picture of what is going on in our classrooms: teachers being pushed, shoved, hit & spat at.

Labour's shadow minister for schools Nic Dakin said: "there is a teacher shortage crisis in this country with the highest number of teachers quitting the profession since records began and the government is regularly missing their targets on teacher recruitment. Incidents like this will not get more people into teaching.

Ministers need to get their act together and bear down on poor behaviour, which is affecting teacher recruitment and retention and threatening standards in the classroom

“ ATL general secretary Mary Bousted says the vast majority of pupils are well behaved



Shocking

It is shocking that more than four in 10 (43%) education professionals have had to deal with physical violence from a pupil in the last year" she said

"No member of staff should be subject to aggressive behaviour in any form while doing their job"

Dr Mary Bousted