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## One healthcare system, one digital approach

The Act to Accelerate the Digitalisation of the Healthcare System – known as the Digital Act for short – came into force in March 2024. For the first time, German social accident insurance is included in Book 5 of the German Social Code as a key stakeholder to be consulted. It is now working on integrating its processes into the networked healthcare system.

Besides their prevention and compensation responsibilities, the German social accident insurance institutions for trade and industry and the public sector are also part of the healthcare system and therefore also affected by all digital applications in the health sector. Although their needs and requirements are very different compared to those of the health insurance funds, it is simply logical that German social accident insurance is not only considered, but also actively involved in the digitalisation of the healthcare system. “We have to avoid parallel structures in the interests of patients but also of those who supply the medical services. No one wants additional work and greater bureaucracy,” emphasises Dr Edlyn Höller, Deputy Director General of the DGUV.

### Electronic patient record

One example of digital applications which are also relevant to German social accident insurance is the new electronic patient record (ePA – elektronische Patientenakte). From 15 January 2025, this will be available to all patients and can be accessed via the ePA app. From this point onwards, use



Clear and in one place – from 15 January 2025 medical data can be stored in the ePA for everyone – this includes data relating to an accident at work or an occupational disease

of the ePA will be mandatory for approved service providers within the statutory health insurance system. This means that all medical data relating to accident insurance claims can also be entered in the ePA. This applies, for example, to data concerning new accidents at work, however older data can also be added. The result is that all data available is in one place. It creates transparency for the insured individuals who can view all the data, but it is also helpful, for example, for assessments as no data or findings can be missed.

### Involving German social accident insurance at an early stage

The example clearly shows that German social accident insurance needs to be involved in the development of digital applications in the health sector from the very start. “We need to receive all information on applications and ongoing developments in the telematics infrastructure early enough so that our needs and the needs of our insured individuals can be taken into account. However, early involvement is essential for the sake of our own digitalisation strategy,” explains

Höller, adding: “We want to make it possible for our insured individuals and service providers to access digital applications in the healthcare system so that everything is simpler and quicker.”

→ [Article in DGUV Forum “German social accident insurance as a partner in the networked healthcare system”](https://www.forum.dguv.de)

[www.forum.dguv.de](https://www.forum.dguv.de) > Issue 10/2024 (German only)

### Communication in medicine – KIM

The recently launched service KIM is a secure e-mail system that will replace paper messages, faxes and simple emails between German social accident insurance institutions and service providers. Whether or not billing is possible via the new service still needs to be clarified. For German social accident insurance institutions, it offers considerable potential for automation.



## Schools as places of peace

What makes a good school? In answer to this question, many of us probably think of well-qualified and motivated teachers, the latest equipment and an area of specialisation. Above all, however, the school atmosphere has a key role to play in ensuring schools can be places where pupils feel safe and respected and are able to learn effectively.

Although this sounds obvious, it is unfortunately not the reality everywhere. This is revealed in the DGUV Barometer Bildungswelt 2024 [DGUV Barometer Education Landscape 2024], which we presented at a press conference on 30 September and which drew a great deal of media attention. One finding among many is that over the past academic year four out of ten teachers had to deal with psychological violence at least once a week, and three out of ten with physical violence. That is a lot. It is too much.

And for this reason we used the survey's publication to also launch a new phase of our #GewaltAngehen [FightViolence] campaign, this time focussed on the education sector. We got experts on board who can talk about everyday life in schools and campaign for violence prevention. They are all very clear that a good healthy school should look closely at what is happening before conflict escalates. It is also clear that this will take a team effort. School leaders, teachers, educational staff, pupils, parents and German social accident insurance can work together to campaign for a school culture that includes everyone and takes a clear stand against violence.

Yours Dr Stefan Hussy  
Director General of the DGUV

## “I BIKE IT” – safer on the way to school

Traffic accidents are the most common cause of death on the roads for young people. For this reason, the German Road Safety Council (DVR) and the German social accident insurance institutions have launched a joint campaign aimed at young people in order to make young cyclists aware of the dangers on the road.

“I bike it” provides tips for teachers working with year 7 and above on how they can include the topic in their lessons and has information material available. Young people learn about how their conduct impacts on other road users and why a helmet is important.

The campaign is being run on Instagram and Facebook and includes a competition. There are great prizes on offer for anyone who takes part in the ‘Pro Helm’ [Pro Helmets] social media campaign and who sub-



Source: DVR

“I bike it” helps young people to learn how their cycling can impact on other road users.

mits an idea on how to persuade others to wear a cycle helmet.

Got some ideas? If so, submit your competition entries now in the form of videos, pictures or posts! All the media for the campaign can be downloaded free of charge from the campaign website.

➔ [www.dvr-jugendaktionen.de](http://www.dvr-jugendaktionen.de) (German only)

## “Educational facilities must be, and must remain, safe spaces for all”



A statement from Christine Streichert-Clivot, President of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, on the German social accident insurance #GewaltAngehen [FightViolence] campaign

### Why should schools be addressing the issue of “fighting violence”?

Violence in schools is an issue that weighs heavily on everyone involved. Violence doesn't just start with physical confrontation. The threshold must be set much lower to include threats, harassment and insults. Violent acts can be physical, but they can also be psychological – in the school yard or on social media. Sadly, what we currently face as a society does not stop at the school gate.

What we need are very clear ‘no entry’ signs. Violence in any form has no place in our educational facilities. It not only has a negative impact on the well-being and safety of those concerned, but also on the overall learning and working environment. Schools and educational facilities should be and should remain places of trust, security and respectful coexistence. Violence destroys these fundamentals and prevents a positive learning environment from developing.

### What can educational facilities do?

To begin with it is important that every school clearly embraces in its mission statement a culture of togetherness and of mutual respect. This is because children and young people not only learn subject-specific skills in our schools, but are also taught social values such as respect, tolerance and empathy. The next step is to take any signs of violence seriously and to go to the aid of those affected. With targeted education, teachers, pupils and parents can be empowered to recognise and prevent violence and to respond appropriately. Thirdly this needs specific action to be taken and clear intervention. School leadership teams and educators should set boundaries at an early stage and not tolerate any violence.

# “Children have the right to attend school without fear”

Dr Franka Christen is headteacher at the Hardt Comprehensive School in Mönchengladbach. Her aim is for the school to be a safe space where peaceful coexistence forms the foundation for learning and working together.



**Ms Christen, as headteacher you attach great importance to respectful and tolerant coexistence at your school. These days we hear more and more about violence in schools. Is that also an issue at your school?**

Yes, of course. No school is entirely free from violence. School is also a place where young adolescents try things out. Abuse of different kinds occurs here, whether its verbal, physical or sexualised. It's not nice, but it happens. This makes it all the more important to be aware, to be able to act and to remain able to act.



**There must be a consequence for any kind of violence”**

## What does this require?

We need a range of strategies in order to consistently address this abuse. In school, we have a prevention and counselling team made up of teachers, school counsellors, school social workers, special education teachers and members of the school leadership team. In acute crisis situations, this team comes together, it provides help and – by discussing all subsequent steps together – offers advice. For this we also have the ‘Notfallordner’ [emergency folder] and the crisis prevention manual.

## How do you deal with violence?

There must be a consequence for any kind of violence, and at the same time there must be a way to make amends. Pupils are allowed to make mistakes and then do better in the future. This is a learning process. To support this, it is essential to develop a school culture with a focus on prevention, with a positive attitude, good relationships, trust and violence-prevention measures. This is only achieved by working together and in a systematic way. Prevention must be an established part of day-to-day school life. From day one through to the end. Our

children and young people need to experience self-efficacy and stable relationships. They need the necessary scope at school to have positive experiences in dealing with violence. They need educators and school social workers to work closely with them and to support them on their way to becoming adults. They have to feel safe, respected and involved. School must be a safe space for our children. They have the right to attend school without fear.

## So what can a school do?

### What's the secret formula?

My job as the headteacher is to be an example of this respectful, positive attitude and to consistently work on this with, and communicate it to, the school community. Pupils need trusting stable relationships and social support. Violence prevention can only succeed with a systematic approach. We need a school culture where everybody feels protected, where they feel well, respected and involved. This task is ongoing, we have to repeatedly revise what we are doing and make adjustments.



**Prevention must be an established part of day-to-day school life.”**

## Where do you get support?

MindMatters is a great programme. School and after-school day-care structures designed to promote health are key to successful prevention and a good school atmosphere. Good relationships act as a source of positivity and help cushion stress. They are strongly linked to motivation, commitment and achievement. By contrast, relationship problems in school and in the classroom have negative consequences for all of us. Programmes such as ‘Streitschlichter’ [Mediators], ‘Medienscouts’ [Media scouts], ‘Buddys’, ‘Schule der Vielfalt’ [School of diversity], ‘Demokratiebildung’ [Democracy

**MindMatters:** The programme supports secondary, primary and vocational schools on their path to becoming good healthy schools.

→ [www.mindmatters-schule.de](http://www.mindmatters-schule.de)  
(German only)

**Emergency plans – Federal state guidelines:** Availability of guidelines (often referred to as ‘Notfallordner’ [emergency folders]) varies by state.

→ [www.pluspunkt.dguv.de/notfall-plaene-leitlinien-der-bundeslaender](http://www.pluspunkt.dguv.de/notfall-plaene-leitlinien-der-bundeslaender)  
(German only)

education] and many others are also very important. Through these programmes, young people experience self-efficacy and respect and are involved.

## Would you like more support?

I would like more money for good professional development and external support for my whole team. We also need money for our pupils in order to be able to keep funding programmes. Following Covid-19, we received a lot of extra money over a two-year period. That was really great and did a lot of good. That should always be the case. And our schools must become places of well-being, in particular by making buildings and classrooms beautiful places to be.

## #GewaltAngehen (Fight Violence)

is a campaign run by the German social accident insurance institutions and their umbrella organisation, the DGUV.

→ Further interviews:  
[www.dguv.de/gewalt-angehen](http://www.dguv.de/gewalt-angehen) (German only)



# Abusive language, insults, screaming – the school routine?

Over half of the teachers at general education schools feel that psychological violence and specific forms of bullying have increased among pupils following the pandemic. 44 percent are also seeing an increase in physical violence. These are the findings from a representative survey presented by German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) at the end of September. According to the survey, psychological violence in particular, such as insults and verbal abuse, as well as bullying, are witnessed

on a frequent basis.

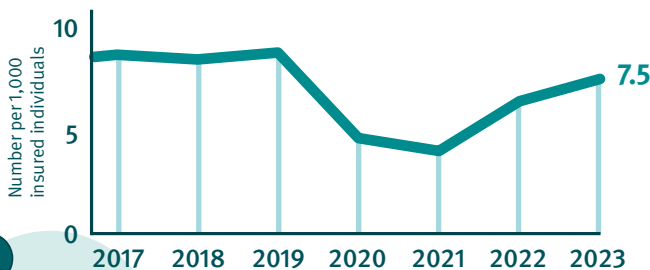
In addition to the survey data, the DGUV has also published its annual statistics for 2023 on pupil accidents which occurred due to violence. These saw an increase of around 11,000 compared to the previous year to 64,897. However, this was still below the level from before the pandemic (2019: 72,973). In light of this, Dr Stefan Hussy, Director General of the DGUV, is calling for investment in sustainable measures to prevent violence.



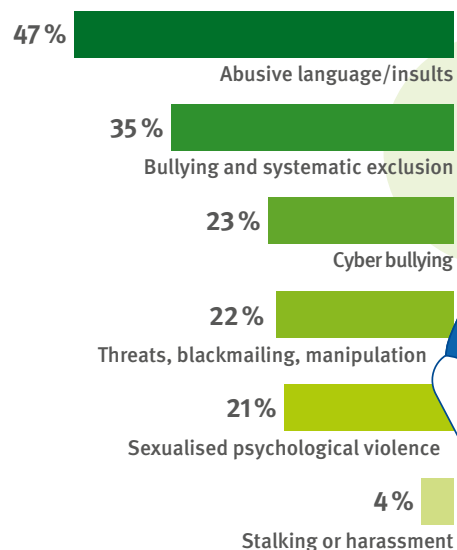
DGUV Barometer Bildungswelt 2024 [DGUV Barometer Education Landscape 2024] [www publikationen.dguv.de](http://www publikationen.dguv.de) Webcode: p022646 (German only)

Statistics on pupil accidents due to violence, 2023 [www publikationen.dguv.de](http://www publikationen.dguv.de) Webcode: p022632 (German only)

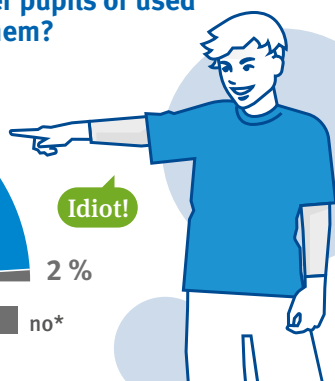
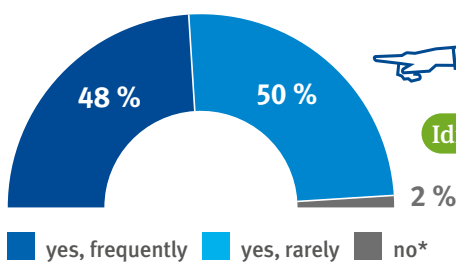
## Proportion of pupil accidents due to violence, 2017–2023



## What forms of psychological violence do you witness frequently in day-to-day school life?



Over the last academic year, were there cases at your school where pupils threatened, insulted, bullied or harassed other pupils or used abusive language towards them?



\*incl. "don't know/not that I'm aware"

52% Rare/no psychological violence  
Percentage total larger than 100 as multiple responses possible.



Graphic elements: KonzeptQuartier GmbH – DGUV

## Imprint

**Published by:** German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Glinkastr. 40, 10117 Berlin; **Publishing committee:** Dr Renate Colella (Chair), Prof. Dr med. Axel Ekkernkamp, Frauke Füsers, Markus Hofmann, Dr Udo Schöpf, Karl-Sebastian Schulte, Ilka Wölfe; **Editorship:** Britta Ibald (legally responsible for content), Kathrin Baltscheit; **Editorial team:** Kathrin Baltscheit, Katharina Braun, Katrin Wildt, (email: [kompakt@dguv.de](mailto:kompakt@dguv.de)); **Publisher:** Content5 AG, Welfenstraße 22, 81541 München; **Printed by:** MedienSchiff Bruno, Moorfleeter Deich 312a | 22113 Hamburg; **Image sources of portraits:** p. 2: Jan Röhl/DGUV (Editorial); Holger Kiefer (Statement); p. 3: DGUV; **office responsible in terms of the General Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO) for the distribution of the newsletter:** German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV). The purpose of data processing is public relations: the targeted communication of current topics from the field of social accident insurance. The legal basis of the processing is our legitimate interest in accordance with Art. 6(1)(f) GDPR or, provided that you have granted your consent to data processing, Art. 6(1)(a) GDPR. You can unsubscribe at any time from having the print newsletter sent to you and stop the related processing of your data by objecting to the data processing. If you have granted your consent to the processing of your data, you can also revoke this at any time. **Revocation/objection:** If you would like to unsubscribe from the print newsletter, please send an e-mail to [kompakt@dguv.de](mailto:kompakt@dguv.de); for further information on data protection, in particular on your rights as a data subject, please refer to the data protection notice on our website: [www.dguv.de](http://www.dguv.de).

