

Children and Young People's Centre for Justice Internship Opportunity

Internship Project Title	A Mapping of Evidence and Policy Approaches to School Inclusion/Exclusion and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
Line Manager	Dr Kayleigh Charlton – Research Associate
Payment	The internship will be paid at UKRI doctoral stipend levels
Hours	Full-time preferred, part-time considered
Based	Hybrid/ Glasgow
Duration	3 months full time or 6 months part time
To apply	Please apply via SGSSS Apply by 4pm Friday 7 November 2025

About the host

The **Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ)** works towards ensuring that Scotland's approach to children and young people in conflict with the law is rights-respecting, contributing to better outcomes for our children, young people and communities.

We produce robust internationally ground-breaking work, bringing together children and young people's contributions, research evidence, practice wisdom and system know-how to operate as a leader for child and youth justice thinking in Scotland and beyond.

Our focus is on three key activities:

- Participation and engagement: amplifying the voices of children and young people.
- Practice and policy development: developing, supporting and improving justice for children and young people.
- Research: Improving our understanding of justice for children and young people.

These activities are underpinned and connected by communication and knowledge exchange work, which is focused on improving awareness of evidence in different forms, and supporting dialogue between different perspectives, types of knowledge and viewpoints.

The intern will be working within the Research team at CYCJ, and will be directly supported by Dr Kayleigh Charlton. Kayleigh is a Research Associate and is working on a Nuffield-funded project about children's intersectional experiences of justice currently. She will supervise the project and will be your main point of contact within the team.

Internship Information

Project background

While the national guidance in Scotland highlights school exclusion as a last resort, we know that schools will implement this to different degrees and more informal forms of exclusion are happening at a more frequent rate (i.e., reduced timetable, managed moves, being sent home early).

Research has previously established a link between school exclusion and ASB, highlighting that one of the most important predictors of criminal record status was school exclusion (Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions, 2012). A study found that 80% of young people in Polmont Young Offenders Institution had, at some point, been excluded from school (Smith et al, 2014). School exclusion is widely associated with social exclusion, carrying further risk of anti-social behaviour, drug taking, and crime (Rabie and Howard, 2013). Despite these links, evidence between school exclusion and ASB is fragmented, especially as it concerns more informal exclusions.

Establishing these links and mapping this evidence is crucial, with stark inequalities present among the most marginalised children in Scotland today. Students with additional support needs face exclusion nearly five times the rates of their counterparts, this rises to six times the amount for care-experienced children (Scottish Government, 2023). Children who qualify for free school meals are also at a higher risk of exclusion, suggesting that there is a socio-economic component involved in school exclusion (Troncoso et al, 2024). With concern about the long-term outcomes of children facing exclusion and its links to youth violence, this project aims to synthesise existing knowledge, identify gaps and provide a clear overview of interventions and outcomes. We would also be interested in exploring inclusion practices and examining what measures schools are taking to promote and prevent exclusion.

Project plan

The aim of the study is to systematically map existing research and policy on school exclusion and the link between school exclusion and anti-social behaviour (ASB), focusing on risk factors, protective factors, and intervention strategies.

This is primarily a desk-based study, supplemented with 5-8 interviews with professionals. The intern's role will be to synthesise the evidence relating to risk and protective factors, document intervention strategies and compare policy frameworks across education. This will involve a literature review and some policy analysis. There will also be the opportunity to conduct interviews with various professionals across the education sector. Departmental ethics will be obtained beforehand. This will help bolster any findings from the review.

Planned project outcomes

This work offers the opportunity to contribute towards future funding bids and inform policy development. In systematically mapping the evidence, this project will help identify both where the knowledge base is strong and where there are evidence gaps, particularly around informal exclusions and long-term impacts. In doing so, this work could support future funding applications around targeted interventions or longitudinal studies. Additionally, findings might highlight opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and inform workforce training for professionals in education, social work, and youth justice.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
• Subject knowledge in related area (children and young people, education, offending etc) • Demonstrated experience of conducting a literature review • Experience of conducting qualitative research • Excellent written communication • Strong interpersonal and communication skills	• Data management and data visualisation skills (Excel, R or equivalent) • Awareness of ethical considerations and safeguarding issues working with children

Eligibility

Before making an application, please ensure that you meet **all** of the eligibility criteria below:

- PhD social science researchers registered at a university in Scotland, regardless of funding source
- PhD students in the second and third year of their studies only (or part time equivalent)

For further information on eligibility, please consult the SGSSS [Internship FAQs](#). If this does not answer your questions, please contact team@sgsss.ac.uk.

Deadline

The deadline to apply is **4pm, Friday 7 November 2025**. Shortlisted applicants may be called for a short interview in the following weeks.