

The Children's Rights Scheme 2021

Your Views

Your Laws

Your Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Hawliau Plant
Cymru

Children's Rights
Wales



The Story so far...

1989 - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children under the age of 18.

1991 - The United Kingdom agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights that are listed in the UNCRC.

2004 - The Welsh Government made it part of all planning and policy making for children and young people in Wales.

2009 - Former First Minister, the Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, announced that Wales will introduce a Measure to set the values and rules of the UNCRC into law.

2011 - Wales becomes the first place in the UK and most of Europe to put the UNCRC into Law.

2012 - All Ministers who work in the Welsh Government have to think about and pay attention to the UNCRC when they are doing their work.

Today - We are updating and developing the 2014 Children's Rights Scheme and this booklet tells you all about it.

Children's rights in Wales

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children under the age of 18.

Welsh Government Ministers have a duty to pay due regard to the UNCRC Articles when they make new laws and policies, or want to change them. They have a duty to consider your rights and to find out how it will affect you.



What are Laws?

Laws must be followed.



What does duty mean?

This is something Minister's must do as part of their job.

What is due regard?

To give balanced consideration of issues, including children's rights, when making decisions.

What is the Children's Rights Scheme?

The Children's Rights Scheme is a Welsh Government document that shows how they give due regard to the UNCRC.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children up to the age of 18. These are the Articles:



**Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru**

**Children's
Commissioner
for Wales**

For more details from the Children's
Commissioner:

https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ccfw_rights_poster_eng.pdf

Article 1

Everyone under 18 has these rights.

Article 2

All children have these rights no matter what.

Article 3

Everyone who works with children should always do what is best for each child.

Article 4

The government should make sure that all these rights are available to all children.

Article 5

Governments should help parents to help you to know about and use children's rights as you grow up.

Article 6

You have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy.

Article 7

Your right to a name and nationality.

Article 8

The government should respect your right to a name, nationality and family.

Article 9

Your right to be with your parents if this is what's best for you.

Article 10

Your right to see your family if they live in another country.

Article 11

Your right not to be taken out of the country illegally.

Article 12

Your right to say what you think should happen and be listened to.

Article 13

Your right to have information.

Article 14

Your right to follow your own religion.

Article 15

Your right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs.

Article 16

Your right to have privacy.

Article 17

Your right to honest information from newspapers and television that you can understand.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and they should always think about what is best for each child.

Article 19

You should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.

Article 20

You should be looked after properly if you can't live with your own family.

Article 21

Your right to live in the best place for you if you can't live with your parents.

Article 22

Refugee children have the same rights as children born in Wales.

Article 23

Your right to special care and support if you have a disability so that you can lead a full and independent life.

Article 24

Your right to good food and water and to see a doctor if you are ill.

Article 25

Children who are not living with their families should be checked on regularly to make sure they are okay.

Article 26

The right to extra money if your family hasn't got enough to live on.

Article 27

Your right to a good standard of living.

Article 28

Your right to learn and go to school.

Article 29

Your right to become the best that you can be.

Article 30

Your right to use your own language.

Article 31

Your right to relax and play.

Article 32

You should be protected from work that is dangerous.

Article 33

You should be protected from dangerous drugs.

Article 34

The government should protect children from sexual abuse.

Article 35

You have a right not to be sold.

Article 36

You should be protected from doing things that could harm you.

Article 37

Your right to be treated fairly if you break the law.

Article 38

Children should be protected during a war and not allowed to fight in the army if they are under 15.

Article 39

Children should get special help if they have been abused.

Article 40

Your right to legal help if you have been accused of breaking the law.

Article 41

If the laws in your country protect you better than the rights in this list, those laws should stay.

Article 42

The government must let children and families know about children's rights.

Articles 43-54

These articles discuss how governments, and organisations like ours should work to ensure children are protected in their rights.

The Children's Rights Scheme

The Children's Rights Scheme has 5 sections:

1. Putting children's rights at the core of planning;
2. Ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to be the best they can be;
3. Helping children to be their best and use their rights;
4. Listening to children and thinking about their views;
5. Children should be able to hold the Welsh Government to account for decisions and actions that affect their lives.

You can find more information about Children's rights in Wales by going to:

<https://gov.wales/childrens-rights>



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Making sure Welsh Government staff understand children's rights

To help ensure the Welsh Government considers children's rights, we have the following key government roles:

- **Government Ministers.** Ministers sit in the Senedd and make decisions that affect all the people in Wales, including children.
- **Welsh Government officials.** These officials provide information and advice to Ministers.
- **Directors.** Directors provide ongoing advice and support to Ministers and Welsh Government officials.



Did you know...

We are developing a training programme with lots of opportunities for Welsh Government staff and Ministers to improve their understanding of children's rights.

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Making decisions that consider children's rights

To help Ministers make good decisions that consider children's rights, Welsh Government staff will:

- Consider the UNCRC in their work including legislation and policies.
- Use the latest research evidence from Wales, UK and across the world to understand what helps improve children's rights.
- Seek out the opinions of experts.
- Listen to feedback from children and young people.
- Use the Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

What is a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)?

- The aim of a CRIA is to support Welsh Government staff in thinking about children's rights.
- The CRIA is to help Welsh Government staff find out how their work will impact, or affect children.
- Welsh Government staff will use the available evidence to understand how their proposal affects children and young people – not every proposal will.

Bringing children's rights to life!

The Welsh Government believes children and adults should know about the UNCRC and their rights.

We will work with children, parents /carers, the Children's Commissioner for Wales and professionals to further the rights of children and young people and to share the importance of children's rights.

We aim to use the introduction of the new curriculum to talk about rights. Human rights is part of the new Humanities curriculum and we will work with schools to develop resources to explain the importance of rights.



Involving children and young people

Welsh Government believes that decisions, policies and how they communicate, are greatly improved by listening to the opinions of children and young people.

To make sure that children and young people's voices are heard, we will develop a long term participation strategy to ensure children and young people are provided with meaningful opportunities to tell Ministers their views.

When policies affect children and young people, Welsh Government staff will be encouraged to produce child friendly versions.



Have we got it right?

To help children and adults show how the Welsh Government is considering children's rights when making decisions, Ministers will publish a report every 2.5 years setting out how they have supported children's rights.

If you feel that Ministers have not considered children's rights when making decisions that affect your lives, individually or as part of a group, you can:

- Contact the Welsh Government to let them know.
- Complain to the Welsh Government and we will try and sort things out as quickly as possible.

<https://gov.wales/complain-about-welsh-government>

Who can help you complain?

The Children's Commissioner for Wales can assist you to challenge Ministers.
www.childcomwales.org.uk/contact

MEIC – is the Advocacy and Advice helpline for children and young people in Wales and is available to advise and provide information to children and young people wishing to challenge Ministers.
www.meiccymru.org



We want to know what you think

Questions 1 – 3

Question 1

The Children's Rights Scheme outlines the plans of Welsh Ministers to support children's rights. Do you have any views on the scheme?

Question 2

What else should go into the Scheme?

Question 3

How can you be more involved in influencing the decisions of Welsh Government?

Questions 4 - 6

Question 4

How can Welsh Ministers make sure everyone knows about and supports children's rights?

Question 5

How would you like to provide feedback to Welsh Government?

Question 6

How can we make sure that the Welsh and English languages are treated equally?

Thank you

Thank you for reading this booklet.

This is a written and an electronic consultation.

You are welcome to choose how you respond, you can:

- complete the online form;
- send via email to childrensrights@gov.wales
- download the form and complete manually and post it to:

Children's Branch

Children and Families Division

Communities and Tackling Poverty Department

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ



Responses to consultations may be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

For more information on Children's rights:

<https://gov.wales/childrens-rights>