

A Review of Play in Wales

What it means for children and young people

Having plenty of opportunities to play and meet up with their friends every day is an important part of the health and happiness of children and young people in Wales.

Every child and young person has the right to play and meet up with their friends. This is recognised in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The Welsh Government's Ministerial Review of Play brought together a group of adults who believe in children and young people's freedom to play and hang out.

In our review we highlighted things that get in the way of play, like:

- **Traffic and busy neighbourhoods**
- **Parents' fears**
- **Not having enough time for play**
- **Adults who don't like children and young people being around or making a noise**

We came up with ideas of things the Welsh Government could do to make it easier for you to play and hang out.

Children and young people were invited to share their views as part of the review, too. This was done by Children in Wales, through its Young Wales project.

Planning for play



Children and young people said:

- It's important adults understand that play is good for children and young people of all ages.
- Transport can make it difficult for you to get to the places where you can play.
- You would like to be involved in planning play services.



We are asking the Welsh Government to make sure that...

- Everybody working in the government understands play and takes it into consideration when they are making new plans and laws.
- People in the government understand what stops you playing and make plans to improve things, especially after Covid.
- People in the government look at ways of providing more money for the services that support your play.

Space for playing and hanging out



Children and young people said:

- Your favourite place to play is outside and you want to spend more time playing outside near where you live.
- Some adults don't like young people hanging around.
- You want places to go that make you feel happy and safe.



We are asking the Welsh Government to make sure that...

- Everybody who is involved in planning and building the places where people live listens to your ideas.
- Everybody who is involved in planning places where people live think about how to make it possible for you to play more near your homes.
- You should have the opportunity to give your opinion on playing and hanging out where you live.

Playworkers and people who work with children



Children and young people said:

- You think all provision for children should be checked to make sure it's good.
- Playworkers should be trained to do their job.
- Adults should be checked to make sure it's okay for them to work with you.



We are asking the Welsh Government to make sure that...

- Everybody who provides playwork services for you (like playschemes and after school clubs) keeps you safe.
- Training is available for the people who provide playwork services for children and young people.
- Playwork services are checked by the government to make sure they are good enough.

Play in schools



Children and young people said:

- Schools are important places for you to play and meet up with your friends.
- Play is important for all ages, not just for children at primary school.
- Schools should make more time for play.



We are asking the Welsh Government to make sure that...

- Parents, carers and other adults are given information about the importance of play.
- Schools protect break time and make sure there is enough time and space for play.
- Secondary schools make sure older children have enough time to meet up and hang out with friends.

Before the end of 2023, the Welsh Government will produce a plan about how it might do these things.

We expect this to make things better for all children and young people in Wales, giving you more time and places to play and meet up with your friends.