

The Children's Rights Scheme 2021

Your Views

Your Laws

Your Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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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 2021 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 Ministers 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.

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 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.

All Welsh Government Ministers will hold discussions with young people every year.

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 raise their awareness of the issue.
- 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 provide feedback or complain?

The Children's Commissioner for Wales can assist you.

www.childcomwales.org.uk/contact

MEIC – This 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. www.meiccymru.org

