



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020

## Evidence and Data Synthesis – Three-year Post Implementation Review

It's been three years since Wales made physical punishment of children by parents against the law. Together with those who work with children and families, we're making sure every child feels safe, respected, and supported.



### What's the law?

In Wales, it's against the law for adults to physically punish children.

### When and how did the law change?

- The law changed in March 2022 so that parents couldn't physically punish children.
- It's now been 3 years, and lots of good things have happened!

### What do people know and think?

- We've surveyed<sup>1</sup> lots of adults, parents and children and young people and found;
- Most adults in Wales know about the law (87%).
- Lots of children and young people know about the law too (76%).
- 87% of children and young people know the law says they cannot be physically punished.
- 75% of parents told us they support the law.
- 69% of children and young people agree physical punishment should not be used.
- 86% of adults think physical punishment doesn't work as a way to manage children's behaviour.

### Who helps families?

- We want to help parents, not get them into trouble.
- Parenting support workers help families by giving support and advice on kind and positive ways to help children learn and grow.
- The Parenting: Give it time website has tips and advice for families.

### What do adults who work with children and families say?

- They feel more confident talking about how children should be kept safe.
- They're working together to help families and keep children safe.
- 60% told us the law had helped them to protect children's right to be protected from violence.
- 57% said the law helps them give clear advice to parents that physical punishment is against the law in Wales.

### Still more to do...

- Not everyone understands the law yet. We're finding better ways to explain it so that everyone knows what it means and why it matters.
- Everyone should know their rights and feel safe.

### Why it matters

- This law helps make Wales a safe and kind place for children.
- Every child deserves to be treated with care and respect.
- Being cared for and protected is your right!



**Our website has information on children's rights for children.**

Children's rights: Information for children | GOV.WALES  
[www.gov.wales/childrens-rights-information-children](http://www.gov.wales/childrens-rights-information-children)

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Corfforol

Ending Physical  
Punishment



<sup>1</sup> Public attitudes to physical punishment of children | GOV.WALES  
Children's awareness of physical punishment legislation and children's rights | GOV.WALES  
[phw.nhs.wales/topics/time-to-talk-public-health/time-to-talk-public-health-panel-publications/publications/time-to-talk-public-health-february-2024-panel-survey-findings/](https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/time-to-talk-public-health/time-to-talk-public-health-panel-publications/publications/time-to-talk-public-health-february-2024-panel-survey-findings/)

