



# Children's Rights

for young people in Glasgow's educational establishments

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Our ambition is for all children and young people in Glasgow to know their rights and have these rights protected.

To achieve this we need all adults to support children and young people in knowing their rights and working together to ensure these rights are protected.

## THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)

### WORLDWIDE

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that most countries have formally agreed to honour.

The agreement protects the human rights of children under the age of 18.

It sets out in detail what every child needs to have for a safe, happy and fulfilled childhood. The UNCRC came into force in the United Kingdom in 1992.

[www.unicef.org.uk/crc](http://www.unicef.org.uk/crc)

### IN SCOTLAND

As a young person you have the same human rights as an adult. The principles in the report *Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)* are based on the UNCRC.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/families/rights/uncrc](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/families/rights/uncrc)

In Scotland there is an independent commissioner for children and young people.

The commissioner is there to help promote awareness of children's rights and to make sure that every child and young person in Scotland has their rights protected.

[www.sccyp.org.uk/rights/UNCRC](http://www.sccyp.org.uk/rights/UNCRC)

### IN GLASGOW

Article 12 of the UNCRC gives children and young people the right to be consulted in matters affecting them and to have their views listened to and considered.

In Glasgow we are committed to listening to children and young people.

Glasgow City Council's *Listening to Children and Young People* framework promotes children's rights.

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/YourCouncil/Council\\_Committees/Joint\\_Boards/ChildrensServicesExcGroup](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/YourCouncil/Council_Committees/Joint_Boards/ChildrensServicesExcGroup)

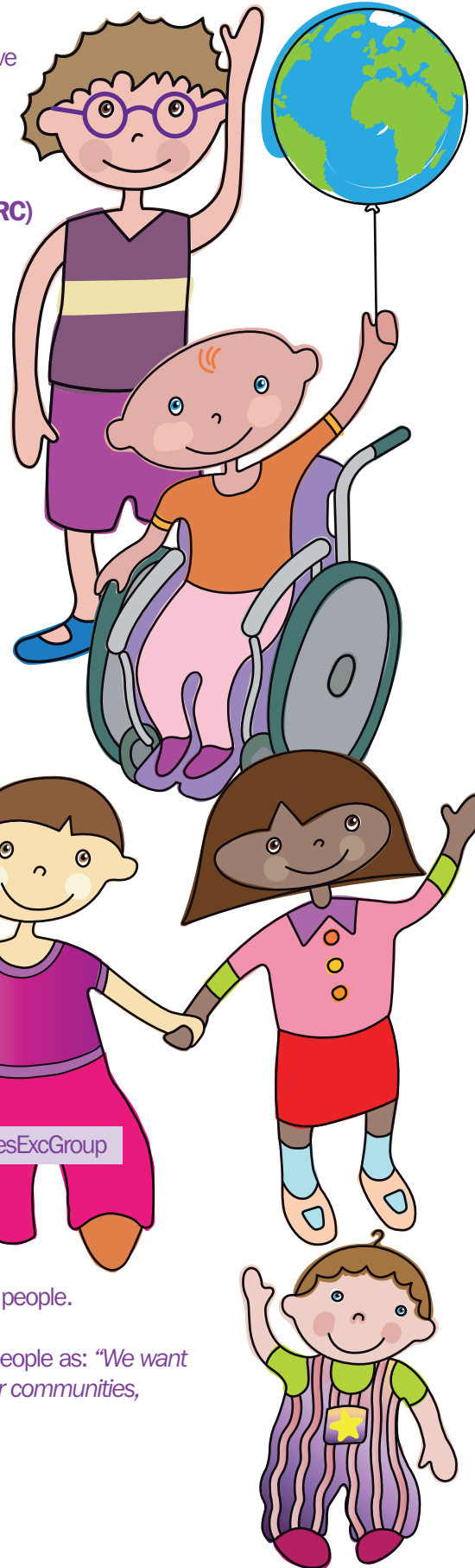
We want children's rights and the UNCRC to have positive influence in the corporate decisions that are made for the city.

We want all adults who work in council services and partner organisations to

be aware of children's rights and respect them in their dealings with children and young people.

*The Glasgow Child and Family Plan* states the vision for Glasgow children and young people as: "We want every child to be supported to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to their communities, throughout their lives".

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/)



*"your rights, your freedom to enjoy those rights"*

# Educating children and young people in the UNCRC

The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** illustrates children's rights and helps us consider how we respect the rights of others. In understanding the universality of the UNCRC, children begin to explore their role in ensuring the needs of others are being met: *"If every child, regardless of their sex, ethnic origin, social, status, language, age, nationality or religion has these rights, then they also have a responsibility to respect each other in a humane way."*, (UNICEF).

Through exploring rights and freedoms to enjoy these rights, children begin to understand how their actions can affect the rights of others. They develop a much greater awareness of their role in ensuring the rights of others around them are not infringed as a result of their own behaviours or actions.

Here are some suggestions of the ways in which we protect each others' rights.

Children have the right to their own opinions. (Article 14).

Children need to respect the views and opinions of others.

All children and young people have a right to a primary education. (Article 28).

Children must take full advantage of opportunities for learning and not act in a way that avoids disrupting their own learning or the learning of others.

Children have a right to access and share information. (Article 13).

Everyone must consider if their actions will be hurtful or damaging to others.

Children have the right to be protected from cruelty and harm. (Article 19).

Children should act in a way that does not cause hurt or harm to others.

It is also important the children understand how adults around them work in partnership to ensure their needs are met.

For example:

*The right to nutritious food is met not only by parents at home, but by school catering staff in ensuring that healthy lunches are provided.*

*The right to an education is not only provided through schooling, but through parents and other adults sharing their knowledge and experience with children.*

*The right to develop your own skills and talents is often supported by adults who run various organisations and clubs.*

Through understanding this partnership, children begin to gain a greater appreciation for how agencies, organisations and adults are working together for ultimately the same goal ... to ensure **ALL** children access the things they need to ensure they can develop, grow, participate and fulfil their full potential.

## Children's Rights

*"your rights, your freedom to enjoy those rights"*

### From Children's Charter to Rights...

We want to feel cared for – to have affection and comfort and to live where there is no cruelty, sufficient food and to be surrounded by friends. (Consider Article 19)

All children and young people should have access to health, fun and exercise. (Consider Article 31)

Young people should have the right to relax, to play and should have more supervised activities to allow them to learn and to grow safely as citizens. (Consider Article 14)

We have a right to fulfil our potential and our dreams. (Consider Article 29)

We want adults to be fair: young people should not be punished for others' mistakes. (Consider Article 3)

We have a right to good, inclusive education. (Consider Article 28)

We want not to feel threatened and not to be bullied; to live in communities where there are mixed clubs with no territorialism and where there is no peer pressure and no stereotyping. (Consider Article 29)

We want to be respected and respect others equally. (Consider Article 13)

Young people should have the right to an opinion and the right to be heard. Young people should be entitled to believe and to think what they want, unless that opinion can result in hurt or harm to others. Young people's opinions should be taken seriously. (Consider Article 12)

The convention applies to every child regardless of: ethnicity; gender; religion; abilities; whatever they may think or say; type of family they come from. (Article 2)

These rights should be protected!

