
Handout 6.4**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child came into force on 2 September 1990 as a universal framework for the treatment of children. The UK is committed to securing these rights for every child in Britain and reports on progress to the UN every five years.

Everyone who works with children and families shares responsibility for upholding these rights:

1. A child means every human being under the age of eighteen years.
2. States shall respect and protect these rights without discrimination of any kind.
3. In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall come first.
4. States will take all appropriate measures to uphold these rights.
5. States will respect the rights and duties of parents, guardians or extended family.
6. Every child has the inherent right to life.
7. Every child shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality, and the right to know and be cared for by his parents.
8. Every child has the right to preservation of his or her identity.
9. Every child who is separated from his parents has the right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.
10. Every child has the right to leave or enter any country, including their own, subject to legal restrictions.
11. States must stop children from being taken abroad illegally.
12. Every child has the right to express his/her own views freely in all matters affecting them.
13. Every child has the right to freedom of expression.
14. Every child has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
15. Every child has the right to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.
16. Every child has the right to privacy.
17. Every child has the right to information from a diversity of sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of social, spiritual, moral, physical and mental well-being.
18. Both parents (or legal guardians) are responsible for bringing up a child, and they have a right to appropriate help in this. Children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.
19. Every child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, physically or mentally.
20. Every child temporarily or permanently deprived of his/her own family environment has the right to special protection and assistance provided by the state.
21. The best interests of the child should be the top priority for adopted children.
22. Every child who is seeking refugee status has the right to receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance.
23. Every mentally or physically disabled child has the right to enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity and promote self-reliance.

24. Every child has the right to the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and the rehabilitation of health.
25. Every child in care has the right to a periodic review of the treatment provided the child and all other circumstances relevant to his/her placement.
26. Every child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance.
27. Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
28. Every child has the right to education.
29. Education should develop a child's personality, talents and abilities to their fullest potential, and include respect for human rights, parents, cultural identity, language and nature; and preparation for adult life in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality and friendship among all peoples.
30. Every child has the right to enjoy his/her own culture, to profess and practice his/her own religion and to use his/her own language.
31. Every child has the right to rest, play and take part in cultural life and the arts.
32. Every child has the right to be protected from economic exploitation.
33. Every child has the right to be protected from the illicit use of narcotic drugs, and from being used in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.
34. Every child has the right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse.
35. States shall prevent the abduction, sale or trade in children.
36. Every child has a right to protection from any kind of exploitation.
37. No child shall be tortured or subject to cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment will be imposed for offences committed below 18 years of age. Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with respect and the right to prompt access to legal and other assistance.
38. Every child has the right to protection during times of war.
39. States will support child victims in a way that fosters health, self-respect and dignity.
40. Every child accused of breaking the law shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Guiding Principles:

These rights are underpinned by four guiding principles:

- Non-discrimination (2)
- Best interests of the child (3)
- Survival and development (6)
- Participation (12)

G. Reflections review and preview

Find someone you have not spoken with yet, mention
 What were the main things you learnt from the morning session?

Any information or ideas that were new to you

Anything you want to get from this afternoon's session

H. Know your parents

List different groups of parents at your school(s):

List different groups and traditions	Which groups take part in school activities?	Which do not, and why not?	What are the needs and aspirations of each group?

Tick each group which usually takes part in school events.
 For those that rarely take part, note anything that may make it difficult for them, eg childcare, language, transport, cultural tradition, employment, etc