Your Voice, Your Choice!

We want a Wales where children’s rights are a reality for each and every child.
All children and young people in Wales are important.

We want them all to have the best lives possible. To make sure this happens, everyone needs to take notice of children’s rights in their work.
Why listen to children and young people?

Ministers make a lot of decisions that affect the people of Wales. Children and young people make up about a third of the population of Wales. So it’s important that you can take part (participate) in how decisions are made.

All children and young people have rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a list of rights you have.

One of these rights is about having a voice and being listened to.

“Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.”

Article 12 of the UNCRC

Participation means that it is your right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing any action that might affect you.

Having a Voice, Having a Choice

To find out more about your rights, go to: childrensrights.wales
What does good participation look like?

In Wales there are 7 National Participation Standards to help organisations and individuals make sure that the process, quality and experience of any participation is good for children and young people.

Good participation can happen anywhere and will have:

- activities – that give everyone a chance to learn more about each other and how to get involved in decision making.
- a balance of power – between young people and adults even if it’s school staff and pupils; councillors and youth forum members; or Government and young people.
- opportunities – to change attitudes, develop new skills and learn how to respect others.

For more information on the National Participation Standards, go to youngwales.wales
How does the Welsh Government help children and young people have a voice and get involved?

Children and young people told us they want to get involved in different ways, sometimes face-to-face, sometimes online, sometimes on their own and sometimes in groups.

It’s important everyone can choose what suits them best and we are working to give you these options.

**We provide opportunities to participate**

For example by having:
- clear and easy to understand information
- consultation events
- forums
- online questionnaires
- websites
- workshops
- twitter

**We make laws**

This helps children and young people have their right to participate. For example:
- The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 which says all Welsh Ministers in the Welsh Government must think about children’s rights, including their right to have a voice, when making decisions that affect them.
- The Children and Families (Wales) 2010 Measure which tells Local Authorities they must give opportunities for children and young people to participate.

**We work with others**

We make sure what we do adds to but doesn’t copy, the participation activities of:
- The National Assembly for Wales www.yourassembly.org
- Voluntary organisations
- School Councils and Local Youth Forums
- Children’s Commissioner for Wales

**We fund and support participation in different ways**

For example we provide funding for:
- ‘Young Wales’
- ‘Meic’
- Children’s Commissioner for Wales

**We let people know about children’s rights**

We do this by telling:
- children and young people across Wales
- parents and carers
- people who work with and for children and young people
- people who work for the Welsh Government
Go on!
Explore children's rights!

This website is all about the UNCRC. It brings together different opportunities to get involved. It also has information, training, resources and contacts to help children, young people and organisations across Wales.

Local Authorities must, under law, give opportunities for children and young people to participate and have a voice. They must also let them know where and how to get involved. You can contact your Local Council and ask them how you can get involved.

Young Wales makes sure there are different ways for children and young people to have their say on issues that are important to them, and be heard by the government and others.

Meic is an advocacy and information service for children and young people up to age 25. The service is free, confidential and can be contacted 24/7 by telephone, instant message or text. Meic is there to listen, provide information and support.

Sally Holland works for every child and young person in Wales. She and her team support them to find out about children's rights, listen to find out what's important to them, provide advice and support if they think they've been treated unfairly, and speak up for them on important issues.

To find out about your rights visit: childrensrights.wales

To contact us:
email: childrensrights@gov.wales
@uncrc_wales

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