

The Rights of the Child Policy

Park Primary & ELCC

In line with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Park Primary & ELCC believe that all children have basic needs and it is their **universal right** to have these met to ensure each child can develop to their full potential.

The UNCRC is an international agreement that protects the rights of the children and provides a child-centred framework for those who work with them.

At Park Primary & ELC we include the "Rights of the Child" in our planning. We reflect the needs of all children within the setting and enable them to enjoy their rights with a growing understanding of how they can help others to access their rights.

The UNCRC is separated into 54 "articles". Out of the 54, 12 are particularly relevant for our ELC and primary school pupils.

Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say or their family background.

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect the child.

Article 9 (separation from parents) Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (eg if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

Article 12 (respect the views of the child) Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, including during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day to day home life.

Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion) Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must help protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 17 (access to information from the media) Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect) Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries to achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 42 (knowledge of rights) Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

In Park Primary & ELCC we actively promote equality and diversity. We strive to improve attainment for all as outlined in Argyll and Bute's "Our Children, Their Future. Education Vision and Strategy"

The Argyll and Bute Early Years Learning and Development Framework "Three Assets Approach" ensures that children in the ELC benefit from a curriculum which helps them to overcome the challenges of today's society-

- Physical and mental health issues
- Poverty gap
- Social / rural isolation
- Financial challenges
- Work related pressures
- Time to talk and switch off
- Global issues such as migration and global warming

In order to help our children overcome these challenges as they grow up, Professor Ferre Laevers talks of the need to focus on each child's

- **health and wellbeing,**
- build their **competencies and life skills** and
- strengthen their **exploratory drive**

These competencies are promoted within national policy through Curriculum for Excellence within the Four Capacities, Pre-Birth to Three within the 'Four Rs' and Building the Ambition.