



THE RIGHT WAY

Education Survey 2018

This nationwide survey

measured how far children and young people in Wales are experiencing the five principles of a children's rights approach in their education.

A white rectangular sign is attached to a wooden stick. The sign has the text 'Making rights a reality' written in a purple, cursive font. The sign is slightly tilted and is positioned in the lower right area of the page.

THE RIGHT WAY

What was it?

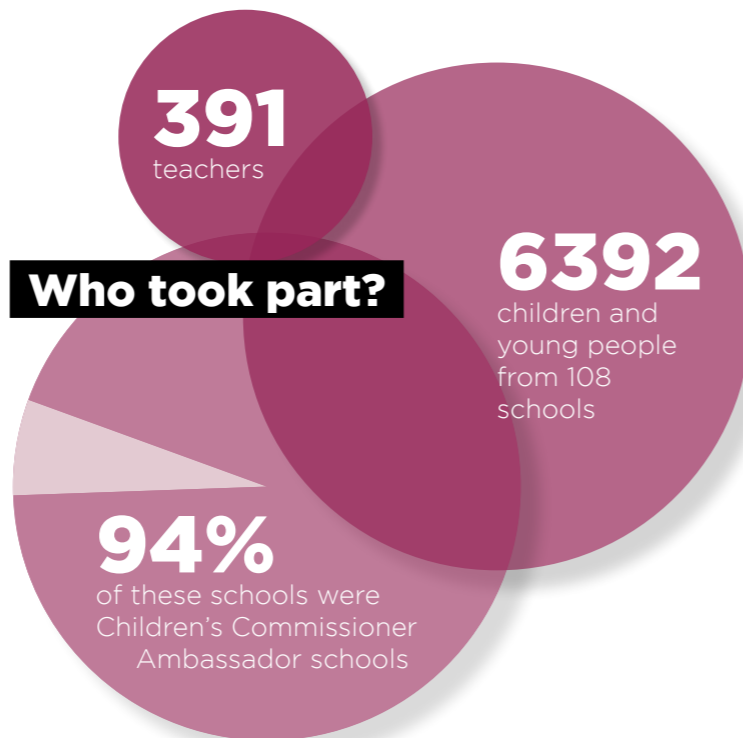
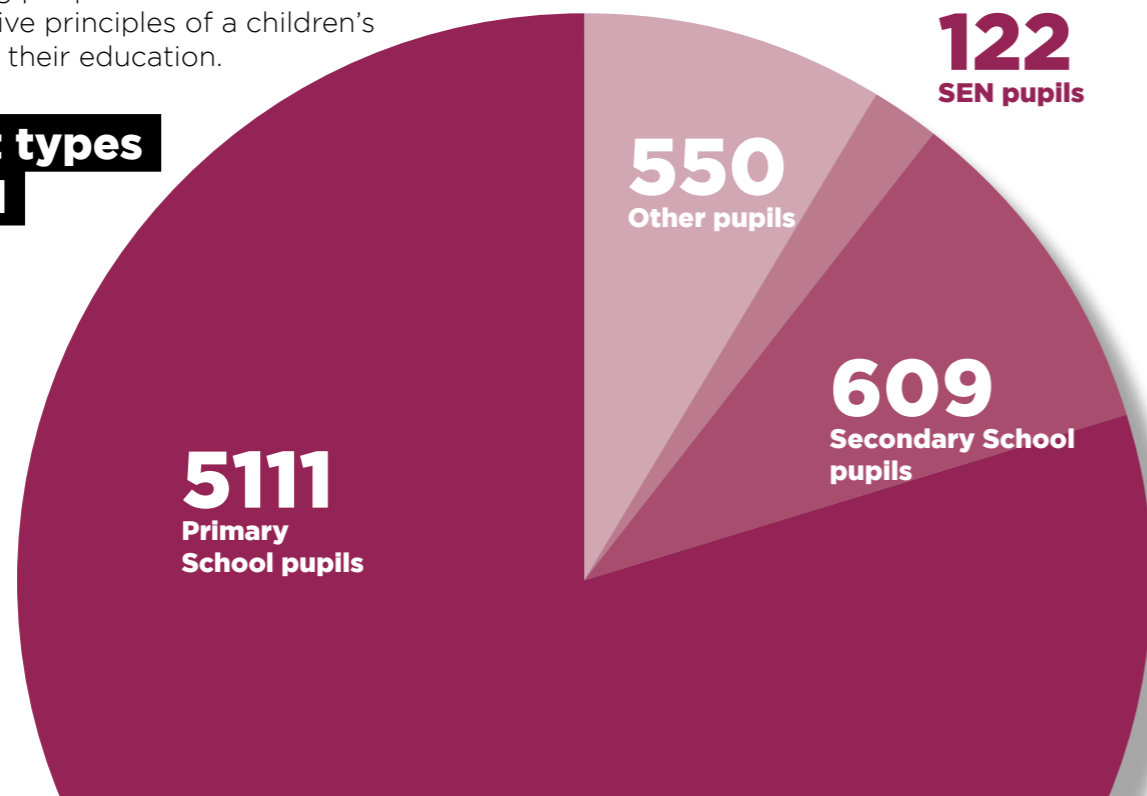
The Children's Commissioner has published [The Right Way: A Children's Rights Approach for Education in Wales](#).

This practical guidance shows how a children's rights approach can be developed using five principles:

- Embedding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC]
- Equality and Non-discrimination
- Empowering
- Participation
- Accountability

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Different types of school



WHAT DID IT TELL US?

Embedding the UNCRC

'Children's rights are at the heart of what we do'

Teacher



Children and young people

75%
had heard of children's rights

34%
had heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

65%
thought their parents had heard of children's rights

76%
would like more training on children's rights

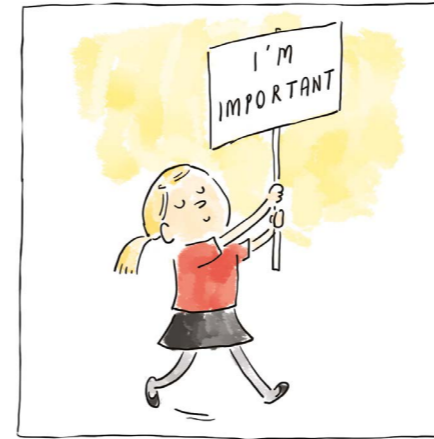
19%
said all their school policies were linked to children's rights

Teachers

Equality and Non-discrimination

'Everyone can be what they want to be'

Young Person



Empowering

'[Teachers] support us in whatever we do'

Young Person

Is it ok to be different in your school?

68% said all children feel welcome in their school

28% said most children feel welcome in their school

4% some children don't feel welcome in their school.

Children & young people

83%

thought all children and young people in their school had chances to celebrate and feel proud of their identity

Teachers

51%

routinely check whether children are experiencing bullying after a period of absence

74%

routinely record all incidences of identity-based bullying

But a difference between primary and secondary aged pupils

68%

said all children and young people felt welcome in their school

73%

of primary aged and

46%

of secondary aged respondents said this

Children & young people

68%

said they had a chance to take part in decisions in their school

But a difference between primary and secondary aged pupils

72% of primary aged and

42% of secondary aged respondents said this.

Children chose these as the top three things that teachers do to support them to experience their rights:

Listen to my opinions (48%)

Keep me safe (45%)

Help me be the best I can be (42%)

27%

of teachers do not link any of their curriculum planning to children's rights

Teachers

Participation



'I always get chances to participate and take part in group discussions'
Young Person

share what they think about their lessons

Collectively **72%** of **children and young people** said that they have a chance to share what they think about their lessons

48% secondary aged children selected this option

77% primary aged children selected this option

Collectively **78%** said that their **teachers** are interested in how they feel in school

51% secondary aged children selected this option

Teachers are interested in how they feel in school

83% primary aged children selected this option

Collectively **71%** said that they can share their opinions about learning

76% secondary aged children selected this option

43% primary aged children selected this option

Share their opinions about learning

Collectively **54%** said they sometimes have choices about what they learn

32% secondary aged children selected this option

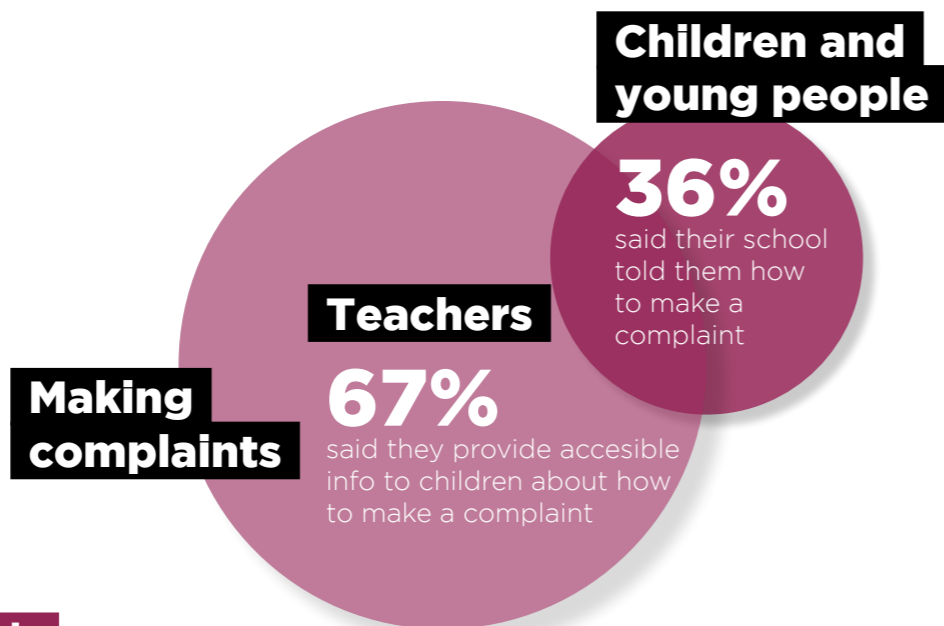
58% primary aged children selected this option

Sometimes have choices about what they learn

Accountability

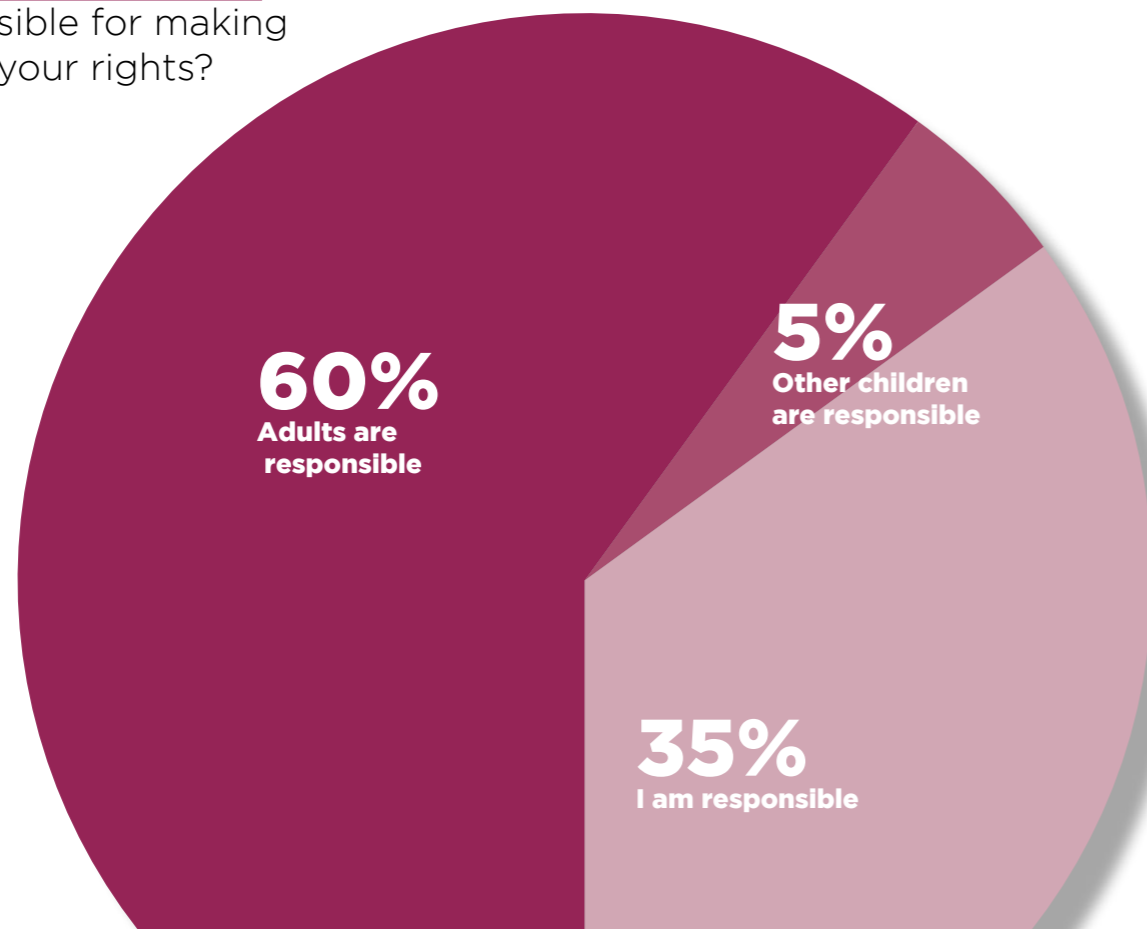
'I deserve to know how to make a complaint to the school'

Young Person



Children and young people

Who is responsible for making sure you have your rights?



Why is this information useful?

For individual schools

Each school that took part received a full individual report that highlights how far children experience their rights and also shows areas for improvement. The Children's Commissioner encourages young people and teachers to use their report to set targets for change using our [planning template](#) and [guidance](#). Schools can take part in the survey again in the summer term of 2019 to evaluate their progress.

To show if children experience their rights in education in Wales

It is important to note that 94% of schools that took this survey are part of the Children's Commissioner's free [Ambassador scheme](#) and receive termly resources to support a children's rights approach. Children in other schools may not be experiencing their rights to the same extent as shown in this data.

Taking this into account, the findings show that **most children answering the survey are experiencing elements of a children's rights approach in their education.** The majority of children and young people have heard of children's rights and describe their school as a place where everybody is welcome. The majority of respondents in primary schools feel they can share their opinions and participate in decision making in school. The majority of children and young people know that adults are responsible for upholding their rights.

But there is also a **need to improve all five principles of a children's rights approach.** Schools should further **embed the UNCRC:** a majority of teachers would like more training about the UNCRC and more than a quarter do not link curriculum planning to children's rights at all. In the secondary schools that took the survey more could be done to promote **equality and non-discrimination:** less than half of secondary respondents describe their school as a place where everybody is welcome. The secondary schools that took the survey could also increase opportunities to **empower** young people and enable their **participation,** as the data suggest fewer chances to share opinions and participate in decision making in secondary schools. All schools can do more to be accountable for children's rights: a minority of children and young people knew how to make a complaint in their school and some children and young people are receiving the incorrect message that they or other children are responsible for ensuring their rights rather than adults.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is using this information to identify areas that we can further support our Ambassador schools. These findings will also inform our ongoing work to **safeguard the long term needs of children by calling on government to ensure that a child's experience of education in Wales is underpinned by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

Contact
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for the full data set.

Data is available
nationwide or by Local
Authority.

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