

Human Rights in the Curriculum for Wales 2022

Human rights are the freedoms and protections to which all people are entitled. Children and young people have specific human rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). You can find all these rights on this [poster](#).

Curriculum for Wales 2022 has an important role in understanding and promoting respect for human rights and the rights of the child. There are three main elements of human rights education:

- Learning *about* human rights: The acquisition of knowledge and skills about human rights;
- Learning *through* human rights: The development of respectful values and attitudes and changed behaviour that reflects human rights values; and,
- Learning *for* human rights: The motivation of social action and empowerment of active citizenship to advance respect for the rights of all

The UNCRC underpins each Area of Learning and Experience and each of the Four Purposes of the curriculum. The tables below shows how the Four Purposes and the AoLEs promotes specific articles of the UNCRC.

How does the UNCRC underpin the Four Purposes?

Purpose	The UNCRC
Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2: Non-discrimination • Article 7: Registration, name, nationality, care • Article 8: Preservation of identity • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion • Article 29: Aims of education • Article 30: Children of minorities/indigenous groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6: Survival and development • Article 24: Health and access to health services • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6: Survival and development • Article 24: Health and access to health services • Article 27: Good standard of living • Article 31: Leisure, play and culture

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 16: Right to privacy • Article 17: Access of information – mass media • Article 19: Protection from all forms of violence • Article 32: Protection from dangerous work • Article 33: Protection from substance misuse • Article 34: Protection from sexual exploitation • Article 36: Protection from exploitation • Article 39: Rehabilitation and support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take part in physical activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 24: Health and access to health services • Article 31: Leisure, play and culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 12: Right to be heard in decision-making • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 24: Health and access to health services • Article 28: Access to education • Article 29: Aims of education • Article 33: Protection from substance misuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have the confidence to participate in performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 31: Leisure, play and culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 3: Best interest of the child • Article 15: Freedom of association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face and overcome challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6: Survival and development • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 4: General Measures of Implementation • Article 29: Aims of education • Article 42: Promote knowledge and understanding of the Convention

Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2: Non-discrimination • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are questioning and enjoy solving problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 30: Children of minorities/indigenous groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can use number effectively in different contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand how to interpret data and apply mathematical concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use digital technologies creatively to communicate, find and analyse information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion • Article 16: Right to privacy • Article 17: Access to information – mass media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake research and evaluate critically what they find 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education

Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2: Non-discrimination • Article 12: Right to be involved in decision-making • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion • Article 17: Access to information – mass media • Article 28: Access to education • Article 29: Aims of education
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 1: Application of the Convention Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 1: Application of the Convention Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 4: General Measures of Implementation Article 42: Promote knowledge and understanding of the Convention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 12: Right to be involved in decision-making Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 1: Application of the Convention Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 8: Preservation of identity Article 29: Aims of education Article 30: Children of minorities/indigenous groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 1: Application of the Convention Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 3: Best interests of children Article 4: General Measures of Implementation Article 8: Preservation of identity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 6: Survival and development Article 24: Health and access to health services Article 27: Adequate standard of living

Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> think creatively to reframe and solve problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and grasp opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 1: Applying the Convention Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 4: General Measures of Implementation Article 27: Adequate standard of living Article 28: Access of education Article 29: Aims of education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take measured risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information Article 29: Aims of education

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 15: Freedom of association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • express ideas and emotions through different media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 29: Aims of education • Article 12: Right to be involved in decision-making • Article 13: Freedom of expression and access to information • Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion • Article 16: Right to privacy • Article 17: Access to information – mass media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 1: Application of the Convention • Article 2: Non-discrimination • Article 3: Best interest of the child • Article 4: General Measures of Implementation • Article 29: Aims of education

How does the UNCRC underpin the AoLEs?

Mathematics and Numeracy

Developing problem solving and reasoning, and making logical, informed and justifiable decisions enables the rights of children **to participate** through being able to **access information** and **make decisions relating to their lives** (Articles 12, 13, 17).

The right of all children to **develop their skills** (Article 29) is a gateway right, through which they will experience their other rights. Learning in this AoLE will also enhance a child's wider experience of their rights related to **survival, wellbeing and provision** (Articles 6, 24, 27).

Health and Wellbeing

This AoLE has strong links to several **protection rights**, in particular Articles 19, 33, 34, 36. There are also clear links with **rights to survival and provision** (Articles 6, 24, 27) and to **non-discrimination** (Article 2). The **rights to decision making and freedom of expression** (Articles 12 and 13) and the rights to cultural participation, play and religion are also promoted (Articles 14, 15 and 31). The development of healthy relationships also links **participation rights with the right to privacy** (Article 16), particularly in the discussion around technology.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

This AoLE particularly enables **cultural participation** (particularly Articles 14, 15, 30 and 31) and also **participatory rights** around **freedom of expression, understanding information** and **decision making** (Articles 12, 13 and 17). This AoLE also promotes the right **to non-discrimination**: Article 2.

Science and Technology

Learning in this AoLE strongly promotes rights around **survival, provision and protection** (Articles 6, 24, 27, 33) and rights around **participation, freedom of expression and decision making**, (in particular Articles 12, 13 and 17, and also Article 16, the right to privacy). These rights are explored in the learning about ethical considerations around the development and application of science and technology.

Humanities

This Area promotes **survival rights** (particularly Articles 6, 24). Learning related to ethically informed citizenship is strongly underpinned by children and young people's right to **participation, and the right to information and freedom of expression** (Articles 12, 13, 15, 17). In addition this Area promotes the **right to non-discrimination** (Article 2) and **rights to cultural participation** (in particular Articles 14, 30, 31). Importantly, this Area also promotes Article 4 and Article 42, **the right of all children and young people to know about the UNCRC**.

Expressive Arts

Articles that inform learning in this Area are **freedom of expression and participation** (Articles 12 and 13), rights to **cultural participation** (Articles 14, 15 and 31) and the **rights to identity** (Article 2, 7 and 30). Learning also draws links with the importance of this AoLE in young people's access to **health and wellbeing** (Article 24) and this AoLE expands on the role of expressive arts in **developing a child's skills and talents to the full** (Article 29).

Further Resources

The Children's Commissioner's Ambassador schemes are free and provide termly resources for schools to develop children's rights approaches and learning about human rights.

The Right Way: A Children's Rights Approach for Education in Wales, is the Children's Commissioner's guidance for education settings. It sets out a practical approach based in the principles of the UNCRC, drawing on practice examples from schools across Wales.

The Children's Commissioner's position paper on Human Rights Education in the New Curriculum sets out why human rights must be central to our developing curriculum in Wales.