

Recommendations

Scottish Government should:

- Involve children in teacher and social worker education.
- Make sure adults treat boys and girls equally.
- Help children, families, professionals and communities build relationships based on trust, kindness, empathy and human dignity.
- Encourage more children to be Human Rights Defenders in Scotland.
- Do more to raise awareness of children's rights amongst children and adults.
- Be Unfearties!

"A defender of children's rights should be a fusion of Neil Armstrong, Robin Hood and a dragon! They need to wear a badge so that people know they care about children and their rights" - MCP, 11

- we invite you to become an **Unfeartie** and stand up for and alongside children.

Visit: bit.ly/Unfearties



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Children's Parliament meets the

Scottish Cabinet 2018

2018 Cabinet Meeting with Children and Young People
St. Andrew's House, 6th March 2018

Key messages from Children's Parliament

Children as Human Rights Defenders

- Children's rights are the things that keep children healthy, happy and safe and they're all in the UNCRC.
- It's important that children know about their rights so that if something is unfair or they're being treated badly, they know to speak to someone they trust about it.
- Children can be Human Rights Defenders by standing up and speaking up when children's rights aren't being respected.

"#humanrightsdefenders are like the guys in the mural on the ceiling in the UN - it represents people from all continents working together peacefully to make things better. And now we're children human rights defenders!"
- MCP, 12



Relationships

Friends

- What makes a good friend – trust, loyalty and honesty.
- For lots of children, bullying is a big issue.
- We shouldn't call children bullies, instead we should talk about 'bullying behaviour'.
- Not all unkind behaviour is bullying - adults just call everything bullying
- Teachers need to be more aware of bullying behaviour, take children seriously and take action to make it better.

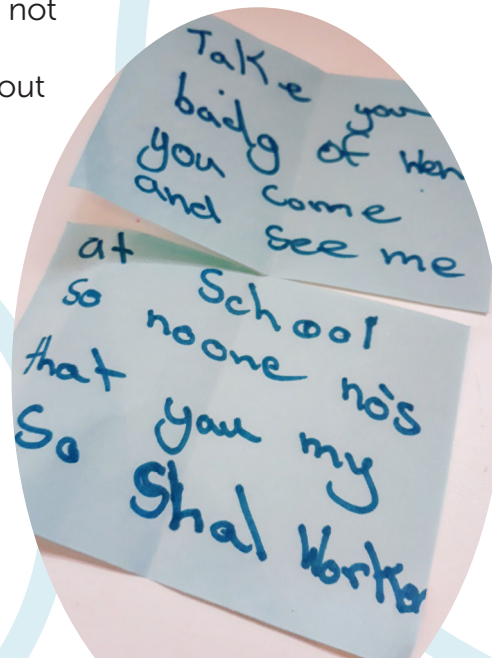
Teachers

- It is important that teachers understand children, involve them in decisions, listen to them and take them seriously.
- Sometimes it feels like teachers can jump to conclusions and think the worst of you.
- Teachers need to understand an individual child's needs and support them.

Social Workers

- Should think about how they communicate information and not spring big decisions on us.
- Shouldn't make decisions without involving us.
- Should respect our privacy.

"Dear social workers please take your badge off when you come see me at school, so that no one knows you are my social worker"
- children want adults to think about their privacy when they are working with them.



Equality

Gender and sexuality

- Boys and girls can be treated differently at school - subjects, expectations, punishments.
- There is a lot of gender stereotyping in adverts, packaging, toys and clothing and it would be better if more things were gender neutral or didn't promote stereotypes.
- LGBTQ+ children and young people can face a lot of bullying and discrimination, but they deserve to be treated the same as everyone else.

Age

- Adults sometimes don't take children seriously because they are smaller and still have things to learn.
- Instead of children and adults being equals, it's about adults wanting to keep their power.
- We are all human and we all have human rights.
- We are all equal but adults have more responsibility.

Care Experience

- Looked after children can be treated differently than other children just because they're in care.
- Being in care doesn't define who you are.
- It's important to use language so that looked after children don't feel left out (e.g. 'parents and carers').
- People need to have more empathy and awareness so they can understand looked after children's experiences.

"When you move to a new house with a new carer it's hard. At first, you are like 'who is this person?', because trust takes time, but playing games, love & hot chocolate really helps!"
- what children with care experience need from adults.

