

Raising awareness of children's rights



Consortiwm Canolbarth y De
Central South Consortium

Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd
Joint Education Service





Background & Objectives

“Wales is a country where children’s rights are a fundamental entitlement. We want to raise awareness of children’s rights to empower all children and young people to exercise their rights as citizens of Wales and the world.”

Julie Morgan - MS Deputy Minister for Social Services.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement that protects the human rights of children under the age of 18. Welsh Government Ministers have a duty to raise awareness of the UNCRC.

There are 54 children’s rights:

- 42 outline children’s rights; and
- 12 are concerned with how governments can ensure that children enjoy these rights

Our raising awareness plan has the following objective: To empower children and young people to exercise their rights as citizens of Wales and the world. This plan sets out how we will raise awareness of the UNCRC in Wales until the end of 2023. The plan will then be evaluated, and a refreshed plan published in January 2024.

Contained within WG / UNCRC’s [report](#) were 2 recommendations (Strand 3 – Education Settings) for Consortia in relation to:

1. Develop a suite of professional learning resources to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCRPD.
2. Work with our partners to develop a collective vision of how we embed children’s rights within education settings.

Progress against recommendations

(Developing a suite of resources)

- A range of asynchronous resources and materials have been developed that focus on promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCRPD and human rights as a cross-cutting theme. Between September 2022 to May 2023, around 600 practitioners have engaged with these resources.
- Strong progress has been made in the appointment of a lead practitioner in support of human rights. The lead practitioner supports the CSC team in the planning of both professional learning and networking opportunities. All resources have been shared on CSCs website.
- Strong progress has been made in the promotion of the mandatory requirement of human rights under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.
- Human rights network meetings ran for two terms from November 2022. Recordings and resources from these meetings have been uploaded to CSC website. The sessions promoted knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCRPD, considerations on how to embed human rights as a cross-cutting theme and signposted to available resources available from the Child Commissioner for Wales, Unicef (Rights Respecting Schools Award), Amnesty International and available resources on HWB.
- Feedback from the network meetings has been very positive, for example practitioners stated that their knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCRPD had improved and hearing how schools are using pupil voice groups has informed their practice.
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- Engaging all schools with this provision remains a potential barrier, and additional focus is being given to promotion of the human rights opportunities with schools across the region, through a proposed funded project. To address any potential barrier, a 'Human Rights Poster pack', to further promote knowledge and understanding of human rights in CfW and the UNCRC/UNCPRD is due to be published end of summer term 2023.
 - Strong progress has been made providing guidance and support to schools to promote knowledge and understanding of human rights, as set out by the two conventions (the UNCRC and the UNCPRD). Associate advisor has delivered professional learning sessions in schools and settings for practitioners and leaders.
 - Strong progress has been made with primary schools sharing how they have developed and embedded human rights as a cross-cutting theme. These recordings have been shared in the network meetings and on the CSC website.
 - An online CSC community area focused on human rights was created in October 2022 to signpost additional materials and resources to schools. Opportunities for further awareness raising about this community are planned for autumn term 2023.
 - Articles have been published in the Curriculum for Wales newsletter, raising awareness of the mandatory requirements of human rights in Curriculum for Wales, and promoting knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC and UNCPRD. (Also including how schools can develop and embed human rights as a cross-cutting theme. The articles signposted to resources, for example, The Right's Way- a children's rights approach, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, links to Unicef – Rights Respecting Schools Award and other available resources.
- The school bulletin has also been used to promote these links and available resources too.
 - Associate Adviser has promoted the RRSA award in Cardiff in the newsletter and network meeting - Cardiff Council Education Service have entered into a service level agreement with UK committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) which will ensure that the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) can be accessed for free across all Cardiff schools during 2022/23.

Progress against recommendations

(Working with partners on a
collective vision)

- Strong progress has been made working with partners to develop a collective vision.
- Associate Advisor has been part of a Welsh Government steering group, working with regional consortia, Welsh Government and a representative from the Children's Commissioner for Wales' team on the production of two playlists on the UNCRC/UNCPRD (to be published shortly as agreed by Welsh Government): Promoting knowledge and understanding of children's human rights and Children's human rights in Curriculum for Wales. The collective vision of this group aligns to the suite of professional learning resources that CSC has produced.
- In response to communication from Cardiff LA, the Associate Adviser has promoted the RRSA award in Cardiff in the newsletter and network meeting - Cardiff Council Education Service have entered into a service level agreement with UK committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) which will ensure that the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) can be accessed for free across all Cardiff schools during 2022/23.





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@CSCJES



communications@cscjes.org.uk

Grymuso ysgolion i wella deilliannau i bob dysgwr

Empowering schools to improve outcomes for all learners