



Department for Education

# HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

What are my rights?



EVERY FEW YEARS, AN ORGANISATION CALLED THE UNITED NATIONS CHECKS ON US TO SEE HOW WELL WE ARE PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS AS A CHILD. THROUGH THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. WE THEN RESPOND EXPLAINING HOW WE PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS AND HOW WE PLAN TO GET BETTER AT THIS.

Your rights are a set of rules about how you should be treated by adults and other children. You have lots of rights, but the main ones are:

- > TO BE PROTECTED FROM ANY HARM
- > TO BE ABLE TO PLAY
- > TO BE ABLE TO LEARN
- > TO BE LISTENED TO
- > TO HAVE A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE

The government is a group of people that adults vote in to run the territories across the United Kingdom (UK)

1. LISTENING TO CHILDREN...

2. MAKING SURE CHILDREN ARE TREATED PROPERLY...

3. KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON THE INTERNET...

4. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM...

7. PROTECTING CHILDREN WHO COMMIT CRIMES...

6. LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WHO DON'T LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS...

5. HELPING CHILDREN WHO DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY...

## WHAT THINGS ARE WE TRYING TO IMPROVE?

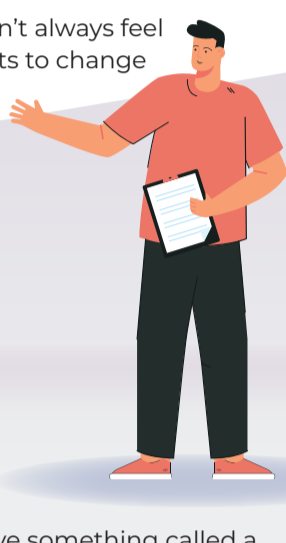
In this graphic, you will learn how we plan to improve on each of these things.

### 1 LISTENING TO CHILDREN...

We heard clearly that children in this country don't always feel listened to by adults, and the government wants to change that so all children are heard.



"I know some of my social workers well. They're there to listen to me..."



The government is trying to give children more opportunities to understand their rights and speak up for what they want.

As a child, you have the right to give your opinion on things that affect your life.

We also have something called a **youth parliament** - a group of children that help the government understand how children want the country to be run.



### 2 MAKING SURE YOU ARE TREATED FAIRLY...

"Sometimes, because we're in care we're treated differently. It makes me quite angry, because we're all the same."



Sometimes in school and other places, children are treated unfairly based on their age, background, disability, or other things.

This is called **discrimination**.

The government is working hard to make sure children are treated equally no matter what their background, including tackling **bullying in schools**.



We are helping new laws to help make sure all children are treated equally.

### 3 KEEPING YOU SAFE ON THE INTERNET...

"Sometimes you have a bit of banter at school, then later it gets taken onto social media and it escalates into cyber bullying."



Some children also experience **'cyber bullying'**, which is bullying online e.g. on social media channels like SnapChat.

While the internet is a great place it comes with some dangers.

When you use the internet, you often need to give details about yourself. Without the right safety measures in place, criminals known as hackers might steal these details.

This year, we put in place new rules to protect children on the internet, to help children make safer choices.

### 4 PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HARM...

"I got bullied and it affected my mental health. I didn't go to school for a long time."



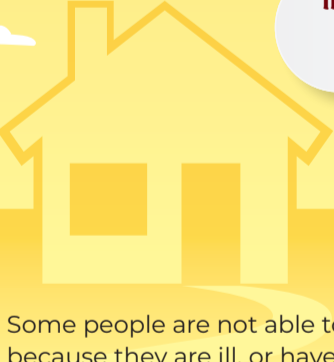
The government is creating new laws to help adults and children understand the right way to treat children such as not hurting children or leaving them alone.

Children should never be harmed physically or verbally

We want to make sure children who need support get it as quickly as possible. This includes improving help for children who have been hurt or bullied

### 5 HELPING CHILDREN WHO DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY...

Every child has the right to live in a safe home and should never be hungry.



The government is trying to make sure that everybody has a job so it is easier to pay for things like food.

Some people are not able to work because they are ill, or have a disability. We are giving money to those people to help support them and their families.

### 6 LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN WHO DON'T LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS...

That's why we're giving children more one-on-one support with trusted adults.



If a child's parents are not around, or not able to make sure that child may spend time in a children's home or in foster care.

We are working hard to support families so that as many children as possible can stay with their families.

We are also speaking to a lot of children who are in the care system about how we can improve children's homes.

Many of them said they wanted more time and opportunities to share their opinions with people they trust.

### 7 PROTECTING CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW...

We also want to make sure that even when children break the law, they are still treated fairly.

The government has changed the law to make sure that anyone under 18 is treated as a child and not an adult when they commit a crime.

Children will get free advice, a lawyer (someone to speak and act for them), and lots of support.



Also, in the UK, older children who break the law sometimes have to spend time in youth facilities.

Children in youth facilities shouldn't be on their own, and they should still be getting an education and healthcare.

We want to make sure that these facilities are a last resort, used for a minimum amount of time, and that most children can stay with their families.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK?

If you have any ideas or thoughts about what you've read in this graphic, we would love to hear them.

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