



Glasgow City Council

Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Education Services

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EDUCATION SERVICES: UNCRC

Purpose of Report:

To update the committee on the Education Services implementation and development of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child across the service

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to note the work of all within Education Services to implement a human rights-based approach across our service.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 UNCRC is central to the key national and local policy drivers underpinning Glasgow's Education Services. These include Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), Curriculum for Excellence and Glasgow's Towards a Nurturing City. These rights are embedded in policy and practice across the policy landscape providing a means for children's rights to be realised.
- 1.2 The incorporation of the UNCRC bill into Scots law was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament in March 2021 and has subsequently been through a reconsideration stage and then passed the Parliamentary vote again on the 7th of December 2023. This became an Act on the 16th of January, 2024
- 1.3 The Act, [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#), places responsibilities on both the Government and Public Authorities. Public Authorities must report every 3 years on what they have done to meet UNCRC requirements and, additionally, must not act in a way that is incompatible with UNCRC requirements.
- 1.4 Following Glasgow Education Services committee paper in May 2021, a Children's Rights Officer took up post in the Education Improvement Service (EdIS). Articles can be accessed [here](#). This paper reports on the further work undertaken by Education Services to ensure a human rights based approach across education services.

2 RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

- 2.1 **Article 28** of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that all children should have access to education and that discipline in schools should respect Children's Rights. Glasgow's Nurturing City approach fully supports the implementation of this across the service, with a pupil centred approach to our young people and engaging them in schools. [Committee Information - View Committee Document \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2.2 Schools across Glasgow will engage young people via a Human Rights approach to school ethos, learning and equalities. The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) from UNICEF is an award scheme which schools can engage with in recognition of the ongoing work their young people and wider school community have engaged in to ensure children and young people are having their rights upheld within the school.
- 2.3 The RRSA is currently funded by Scottish Government to allow wider engagement from schools nationally. This funding will be in place until end March 2025.

- 2.4 Our Childrens Rights Officer works to support schools and young people in their planning and implementation of being a Rights Respecting School. Schools move through a tiered system of recognition, Bronze for schools at the beginning of their journey, Silver when impact is recognised and Gold when schools have achieved full status.
- 2.5 In order to facilitate and support the assessment of schools for this award, 4 senior officers have undertaken training to support the work of UNICEF in assessing Glasgow establishments. Our Children’s Rights Officer and 3 Depute Head Teachers are fully trained and able to grant schools the awards at all levels. To date our schools have achieved the following award levels:

RRSA Awards at	20/09/202	30/06/202	30/06/202	05/12/202	21/05/202
	1	2	3	3	4
Gold	2	2	4	6	6
Silver	2	4	16	18	33
Bronze	16	24	52	61	74
Registered	16	52	34	28	23
Active (within 3 years)	36	82	106	113	136

- 2.6 Training, professional learning and resources have been provided by the Childrens Rights Officer and the Childrens Rights Steering Group for Education which is made up of school-based representatives in Primary and Secondary schools.

3 EDUCATION SERVICES AND UNCRC ARTICLES

- 3.1 Article 42 states that government must ensure young people know about their rights. The ongoing work across Education Services is key in supporting both understanding and the realization of the rights of our children and young people. The following points are not exhaustive and further articles are supported through education but this report highlights some key articles for this committee:

- 3.2.1 Article 12 & 13: These articles focus on the right of children and young people to share and state their views and for adults to respect and listen to those views carefully. Two main central opportunities have been created in the Glasgow Schools Forum and the Senior Phase Parliament. The Schools Forum meets monthly and every school in Glasgow is invited to send delegates from their pupil body. This meets in two groups- Primary and Secondary BGE. The Senior Phase Parliament meets 4 times per session and focuses on the key issues identified by the young people. Through discussion and collaboration with the young people at both forums, themes were developed to create the young people’s vision. This was further developed by the young people in Hyndland Secondary School who created and launched the ‘Manifesto for a Fairer Future’ [Committee Information - View Committee Document \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#) at the city’s first Young People’s Conference in October 2023. The work on Youth Voice was reported to Committee in January 2024. The paper can be found here: [Committee Information - View Committee Document \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#)

- 3.2.2 Article 23: Article 23 outlines the support government must give to ensure young people with disability should be enabled to lead full active lives. The work across the city by our schools and central officers to support and meet the needs of children and young people was reported to committee in April 2024. [Committee Information - View Committee Document \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#) Glasgow's schools and staff remain fully committed to meeting the needs of our learners and striving for the best possible outcomes for our young people.
- 3.2.3 Article 20,21 & 25 : These articles all pertain to children and young people who, for different reasons, find themselves are living away from their families. This would include our care experienced young people and unaccompanied minors. This group are fully supported by the ongoing work of the Glasgow Virtual School who oversee and support our young people and who are working across the City to deliver The Promise Award Training.
- 3.2.4 Articles 32, 34, 35 & 36 advise on the safeguarding of children and young people and the responsibilities this entails. All staff across the service undertake annual professional learning to ensure that our children and young people have fully informed, proactive adults looking to protect their rights. Every establishment has a named Child Protection Coordinator who oversees and implements policy which is continually renewed and developed in conjunction with partners in Glasgow HSCP, Police Scotland and Government.
- 3.2.5 Article 30 looks at the rights to a language and a culture, this is of minority groups and includes indigenous languages. Article 2 is essential in terms of non discrimination. Ongoing work of our EAL teachers and Equalities team can be found in this report: [Committee Information - View Committee Document \(glasgow.gov.uk\)](#).

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Our schools and early years continue to implement the human rights-based approach to education and this is recognized our commitment through All Learners All Achieving to Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
- 4.2 RRSA government funding will end in March 2025 and while the development of this approach will continue within our establishments, further progression in terms of the award scheme will be dependent on establishments funding accreditation individually. This may become a barrier to award status but it is asked that Committee recognises the ongoing work of our establishment citywide beyond the award scheme.
- 4.3 Youth voice and participation was reported on in January 2024. This work will continue to support the participation of our children and young people and ensure their voice is heard within Glasgow. Work has begun on the development of a young people's City Charter for next year in conjunction with Glasgow 850 and Glasgow Life.

5 POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	N/A
<i>Legal:</i>	Future work on CRIA
<i>Personnel:</i>	N/A
<i>Procurement:</i>	N/A

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

- Increase Opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens(Mission 3 Raiser attainment amongst Glasgow's Children and young people)
- Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities. (Mission 2 Meet the learning and care needs of families before and through school, Mission 3 Improve the Health and wellbeing of our local communities, Mission 4 Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant)
- Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities. (Mission1 Create safe, clean and thriving neighbourhoods, Mission 2 Run an open well governed council in partnership with all our communities).

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

- Yes
1. Specifically related to training.
 2. Development of BAME network.
 3. Inclusion of all young people.
 4. Gender based violence is a theme talked through this work.
 5. Hate crime training linked to this work.
 6. Mental health and wellbeing focussed e.g. Respect Me.
 7. Clear focus on equality and diversity.

8. Equalities and discrimination are part of the Senior Phase Parliament manifesto.
9. Attainment for All.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive impact

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. Yes – engagement in civic responsibility and accountability

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: Yes :-
 Theme 1 Communication & Community Empowerment
 Theme 2 Just and Inclusive Place
 Theme 4 Health and Wellbeing

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? None

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
 Y/N No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Committee note the report and promote engagement across the Council Family, Officers and Members.