

Questionnaire – Does your school environment give everyone a chance to enjoy their rights?

Revised from: Osler, A. and Starkey, H. (1998), 'Children's Rights and Citizenship: Some Implications for the Management of Schools', *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 6 (3): 313-333.)

Students and staff can both experience the denial of their rights and freedoms. The list below will enable you to judge quickly and easily whether the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is followed in a variety of situations in your school.

PROVISION	Always	Some times	Never
1. Students and teachers have opportunities to learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to consider its implications for the school (Article 29)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Girls and boys have equal access to all activities, sports, subjects, lessons and clubs in the school (Articles 2, 28, 29, 31).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. All tests take account of cultural differences in the school population (Articles 2, 28, 29.1c, 30).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. In the teaching of national history, due weight is given to women and minorities and to their versions of history (Articles 2, 13, 28, 29.1c & d, 30).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Extra-curricular activities organised by the school are available to all regardless of ability to pay (Articles 2, 28, 31).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The school is accessible to people with disabilities (Articles 2, 23, 28).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Care is taken that students' names are recorded and pronounced appropriately (Article 7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The school devotes resources to ensure regular attendance (Article 28)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The school provides opportunities for students to express themselves through art, music drama and other creative media (Articles 13, 14, 29, 31)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROTECTION

	Always	Some times	Never
10. Staff and students are careful not to cause physical or emotional harm (articles 19, 28.2). For example: Within the school, including indoor and outdoor areas, the following are considered unacceptable: aggressive shouting insults jokes that make fun of individuals or groups bullying physical violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Students' lockers are considered to be private property (Article 16).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Any personal files on a student kept by the school can be inspected by the student whose file it is and the parents, if appropriate. The file can be checked and corrected if necessary (Articles 5, 16, 17, 18).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. The contents of any files, whether personal or vocational may not be communicated to a third party without the permission of the student and her or his parents if appropriate (Articles 15, 16, 18).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Any person receiving information from a school file accepts that they are bound by confidentiality (Article 16).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. No posters, images or drawings of a racist, sexist or discriminatory kind may be displayed anywhere on school premises (Articles 2, 17, 29.1b, c, d).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. People encourage each other to be respectful, particularly of those who appear different (Article 29).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. When there is an incident that may lead to the exclusion of a student or disciplinary action, an impartial hearing is organised. In other words, all those involved get a hearing (Articles 28.2, 40).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. A student accused of breaking the rules is presumed innocent until proven guilty and carries on with classes (Article 28.2, 40).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Where a student has infringed someone's rights - student or adult - reparation is expected (Articles 2, 19).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Adults infringing students' rights are also expected to make reparation (Articles 2, 19).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PARTICIPATION

	Always	Some times	Never
21. Students are considered as citizens with rights and entitlement to respect (Articles 12, 19, 29.1c).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Student publications, such as a newspaper or website, are treated like any other publication, subject to the law, but not subject to additional censorship (Article 13).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Students may organise for themselves clubs and societies, including an independent student union, and these are recognised by the school authorities (Article 15).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. There are formal and informal mechanisms for learners to make a complaint or suggestions for improving the life of the school (Articles 12, 13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. In their schoolwork, students have the freedom to express their own political, religious or other opinions, whatever the opinions of the teacher (Articles 12, 13, 14, 17).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Students and staff are consulted about the quality of the teaching in the school (Article 5, 12, 18).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. There is an elected student council (Articles 12, 13, 15, 17)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Students are represented on the governing body of the school (Article 12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Students have opportunities to express views on the appointment of senior staff, for instance by participating in interviews (Article 12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>