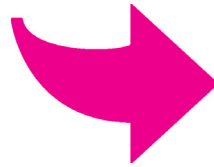




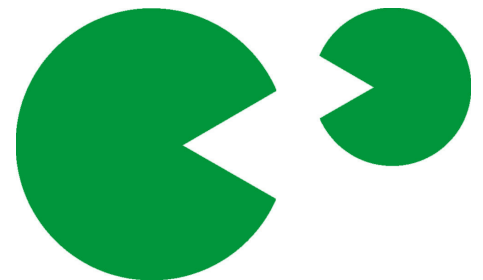
# How can schools protect children's rights?



The Office of the Children's Commissioner would like to know what you think.

## Who we are and what we do

-  We **protect** and **promote** children's rights.
-  We **listen** to children and young people to **learn** from their views and experiences so we can **share them with decision-makers** like the Government.
-  We **speak up** for all children and young people, especially those who might need additional help or support.
-  Everyone at the Office of the Children's Commissioner works hard to **make sure all adults listen** to the views of children and young people.
-  The Children's Commissioner's job was created by a law called the **Children Act 2004**. The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC) is also a really important document that guides our work.



## Introduction

Every child has a right to an education but, while at school, children also have all of their other rights, such as the right to be kept safe, to be listened to and to be respected. Schools need to provide an environment where rights are promoted and protected and children and young people understand them.

There are lots of **different opinions** about what a good education system looks like. We have **spoken to over 100 children and young people** and professionals from across England. We have also **looked at the UNCRC** and other work we have done and have some thoughts.

**It would be great to hear what you think about them.** We're also checking them out with some adults and professionals too so we make sure we see the big picture.



On the next two pages, you will see what we would like your views on, some questions to think about and how to get in touch.

# What we think at the moment

These are the things we want your views on.

## What's the point of school?

All children should leave primary school being able to read, write and do maths.

All children should be supported to get the best qualifications they can.

Education should be rewarding and enjoyable.

Children and young people should leave school wanting to make a contribution to society.

Education shouldn't take up so much time that children cannot take part in other activities.

When young people leave school, they should be able to decide what they want to do next and know how to do it.

## What should the whole education system do?

Support children to reach their full potential, regardless of their background.

Ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve.

Help each child prepare for adult life.

As well as provide high quality teaching, education should:

show young people how to play a positive role in society.

give young people the skills to get a job and contribute to their community.

help young people how to deal with emotional and relationship issues.

## What should school do?

Schools should be places where all children are safe, able to learn, and where there are high expectations of respect and behaviour from everyone.

Schools should make decisions in the interest of the children who are at the school.

Schools should notice when a child might be unsafe outside school, and take steps to make them safe.

Schools should listen to children's views and take them seriously when making decisions about what happens in school.

## What if things go wrong?

If children can't attend school, they should get a different sort of education so they can still achieve and develop.

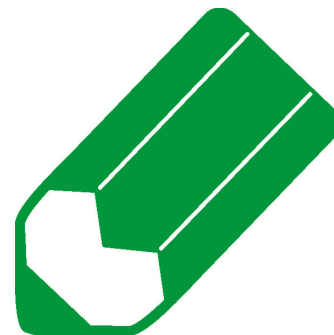
If a child (or group of children) is let down by the education system, they should be able to complain and have it put right.



# The questions

1. Do you agree with what we've said?  
Why?
2. Are there any points you feel don't work?  
What are they?
3. Is there anything missing?  
Please tell us what they are.
4. How could these things be done in your school?
5. How would we know if they work?
6. How do we make sure that schools and the education system make these things happen?

Here are some questions we would like you to think about.



You can respond to these questions in any way that works for you. There's a form you can download from our website by clicking here, or you can write to us, send us a picture or even a video!

## How to get in touch

We would really like to hear what you think.

We're accepting thoughts and comments until **Friday 26 September 2014** and the best way for you to send them to us is by email. The address is:

**[OCCEducation.CONSULTATION@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:OCCEducation.CONSULTATION@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)**

If you have any questions, or don't understand something, please get in touch with the **participation team**. Their email address is:

**[OCC.Participation@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:OCC.Participation@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)**

Thank you so much for taking the time to look at this document. We look forward to hearing from you.

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