

# CHAPTER 7

## EDUCATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

STATE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS  
IN SCOTLAND 2019



### WHAT IS THIS CHAPTER ABOUT?

This chapter looks at children's rights to education, play, rest and leisure. It looks at how children's schoolwork can be affected by other things going on in their lives such as living in poverty, being disabled, having poor mental health, family difficulties or being a carer for a family member. These children might struggle at school if they don't get enough support. This chapter also looks at children's access to play, sport, arts and cultural activities.

### WHAT DID THE COMMITTEE SAY?

The Committee said that Scottish Government should do more to help children do well at school, especially children who need extra help because they live in poverty or are disabled. More money needs to be spent on nurseries and having enough people trained to work in them. The Committee also said that Scottish Government should do more to protect children's right to play, leisure, sport and cultural activities – particularly for disabled children and children living in poverty.

### WHAT HAS SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DONE?

Scottish Government has given more money to schools so they can support children living in poverty. It has also made more childcare available for young children and made plans about play, sports, culture and youth work - for example a plan about getting children involved in music.



## WHAT DO CHILDREN THINK?

Children think that the money from the Scottish Government does not always reach the people who need it and have said it needs to be given out more fairly. Children have said that they need more opportunities to play and join clubs at school, and they would also like to see more leisure and socialising opportunities in their communities, such as community markets, fairs and events, spaces for people to spend time, creative clubs, activities and more fun stuff. Children have said they want more physical activity and Physical Education (PE) at school, involvement of specialist PE teachers/coaches and improved facilities - especially in primary schools.

"Children have a right to play...when adults and teenagers are drunk [in the park], children will feel unsafe or scared or children will just run away."

## WHAT DOES TOGETHER THINK?

More needs to be done so that children's schoolwork is not influenced by other things going on in their lives. Schools should be places where children's human rights are respected, and should help children learn about their rights. More money needs to be spent on places and activities for playing that all children can enjoy.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

A group of people (called Audit Scotland) are going to take a look at what's been done to make things better for children at school and think about what else needs to happen.

The rules that say what teachers should be like will change in 2020. Children were asked to help with ideas for what should be in the new rules - they said that teachers should be knowledgeable, supportive and respect children's human rights.



## WHAT ELSE IS TALKED ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER?

- Children who are told they aren't allowed to go to school
- Children who are separated from their classmates at school
- Children learning about their rights
- Youth work
- Children being included in decisions about their community

If you want to see the full chapter, you can find this [here](#).

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