



Ein cyf/Our ref: JMEWL/11448/21

Families First in Education  
[correspondence@familiesfirst.wales](mailto:correspondence@familiesfirst.wales)

28 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your letter of 06 October regarding the use of UNCRC by the Children's Commissioner.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is an independent body that acts as a 'critical friend' to the Welsh Government on matters affecting children in Wales. Views and opinions expressed by the Commissioner are her own, and do not necessarily reflect and should not be regarded as those of the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has adopted the UNCRC<sup>1</sup> as the basis for all its work for children and young people. The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011<sup>2</sup> imposes a duty on Welsh Ministers to have due regard to children's rights, as set out in the UNCRC. The Children's Rights Scheme 2014<sup>3</sup> sets out the arrangements for Welsh Ministers to comply with the duty to have due regard to children's rights when exercising any functions.

Article 28 of the UNCRC states that all children have a right to an education and that primary education should be compulsory and free. Article 29 states that education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Wales receive a suitable education, and given the chance to thrive and fulfil their potential, in all educational settings.

The Government acknowledges that some parents choose to educate their children at home. Officials from the Welsh Government have previously engaged with EHE families and stakeholder groups in a range of ways including meetings, workshops and consultations. It is our intention to build on these positive engagements, and having recently held informal

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/2/contents>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/childrens-rights-scheme-2014.pdf>

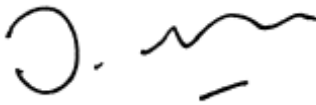
meetings with EHE representative groups, I am happy to extend this offer to your organisation.

We will continue to seek to work with stakeholders, and in particular those directly affected by our work, to ensure the voice of those with 'lived experience' informs activity and is in line with the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales.

If you would like to contact my office at the email address on the page above, a meeting can be arranged, at a mutually convenient date and time, for you to discuss EHE in Wales with the appropriate officials.

I hope that this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language