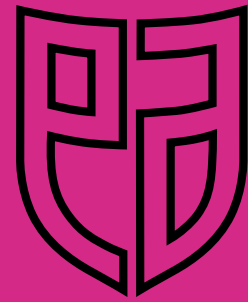




# Our Rights Our Voices Our East Ayrshire



# Why this report exists

This report explains:

- What your rights are
- What East Ayrshire is doing to protect them
- How children's voices are shaping decisions



Adults in Scotland must now **follow children's rights in law**. This comes from the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. This summary is written **for children and young people**, because

## Children have the right to understand decisions made about them.

### Who is a child?

If you are **under 18 years old**, you are a child.

That means:

- Your rights apply every day
- Adults must think about your best interests
- Your views must be listened to and taken seriously



### What are children's rights?

Children's rights are things **every child needs to grow up**:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Listened to
- Respected
- Able to learn, play and be themselves

Your rights come from the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, which Scotland has made part of its law.





## The most important rights (what they mean in real life)

### The right to be safe

You have the right to be protected from:

- Harm
- Abuse
- Violence
- Bullying

Adults must act quickly if a child is unsafe.



### The right to be heard

You have the right to:

- Share your views
- Have adults listen
- Have your views help shape decisions

This applies at school, in services, and in the community.



### The right to education

You have the right to:

- Learn
- Get help if learning is hard
- Be treated fairly at school

Education should help you:

- Build confidence
- Learn skills
- Prepare for the future



## The right to play, rest and be young

Play is not a reward – it is a right.

You have the right to:

- Play
- Relax
- Be creative
- Spend time with friends



## The right to health

You have the right to:

- Doctors and nurses
- Mental health support
- Healthy food
- Help with wellbeing



## Children in East Ayrshire

Children and young people live across East Ayrshire's:

- Towns
- Villages
- Rural communities

East Ayrshire Council plans its services so that **Children's rights are included in guiding decisions across every service.**





## What children told us

Children from P1–S6 shared their views through:

- Schools
- Youth groups
- Care Experienced and Young Carers groups
- Youth conferences and consultations

Children said:

- Being **safe** matters most
- Being **listened to** makes them feel respected
- Play, rest, and friends are essential
- Policies should be **easy for children to understand**

*“When adults really listen to us, it makes us feel important.”*

This feedback forms part of information that helps us to inform council plans and actions.



## How East Ayrshire uses children's rights

East Ayrshire must now **check children's rights before making decisions.**

This means:

- Policies are checked for children's rights impacts
- Budgets consider how children will be affected
- Staff are trained in children's rights
- Children's views are recorded and fed back

This helps make sure rights are:

- **Respected**
- **Protected**
- **Put into practice**





## Families, care and support

Children have the right to:

- Be cared for
- Feel loved and supported
- Stay connected to people who matter

Some children need extra help, including:

- Care experienced children
- Young carers
- Children with additional support needs
- Children affected by poverty

Support must be:

- Fair
- Kind
- Based on each child's needs



## What to do if something is wrong

You have the right to:

- Ask questions
- Say when something feels wrong
- Make complaints safely

Adults must:

- Explain things clearly
- Listen carefully
- Help you get support to make sure your voice is heard

Complaints should never get you into trouble.



## East Ayrshire's Promise to Children

East Ayrshire Council promises to keep working so every child grows up:

- **Loved**
- **Safe**
- **Heard**
- **Respected**
- **Supported to reach their potential**

Children's rights are not "extra" – they are **how decisions must be made.**

## Why this matters

This child friendly report shows that East Ayrshire:

- Takes children's rights seriously
- Listens to children's voices
- Explains decisions in child friendly ways
- Meets legal UNCRC duties in Scotland



## **1 You said: "Being safe matters most."**

**We did:** In East Ayrshire, adults who work with children are trained to act fast if a child is not safe. We work hard to stop harm, abuse, violence, and bullying.

## **2 You said: "Being listened to helps us feel respected."**

**We did:** We write down what children tell us and use it when we make choices in schools and services. Adults are trained to listen well and explain things clearly.

## **3 You said: "Play, rest, and friends are important."**

**We did:** We treat play as a right for every child.

You shared ideas about parks and play spaces in schools and community events. We are investing £1.3 million to improve play parks so they are fun, safe, and easy for everyone to use, including children with disabilities.

## **4 You said: "We want to help make our community cleaner and greener."**

**We did:** We worked with schools (like Darvel Primary) on the "Dinnae Forget Your Caddy" recycling campaign. We used your ideas—like clearer signs and rewards—to help more families recycle.

## **5 You said: "Rules and policies should be easy to understand."**

**We did:** When we write a policy that affects children and young people, we will produce a clear, child-friendly version at the same time. Children and young people will help us check the wording so it is easy to understand and actually answers your questions.

