

# Children's Parliament Investigates Learning for Sustainability

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 **Children's  
Parliament**

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## Children's Parliament

At Children's Parliament, our dream is that children grow up in a world of love, happiness and understanding. It is our mission to inspire greater awareness and understanding of the power of children's human rights and to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots Law.

As children are democratically excluded due to their younger age, we work with ages early years-14 years old.



## UNCR

Children's rights, gathered together in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), aim to ensure that every child is treated with kindness, empathy, trust and dignity.

The UNCRC states that children have the right to an education that supports them to develop respect for the natural environment, as well as the opportunity to have their voices heard in decision making. The new LfS Action Plan presents a vital opportunity for fulfilling children's rights in Scotland.



## Rights Based

### Approach

At Children's Parliament, we practice our work within a children's human rights framework. We call this our Rights-Based Approach. Our activities use children's rights to create equal and participatory spaces, such as through sitting in circles together and ensuring children know they are rights-bearers.

We work with diverse groups of children from early years-14, and often those without access to participation who may not self-identify as activists or experts.



## Some Aspects of a Rights Based Approach

- Builds the capacity of children as rights-holders to claim and defend their rights and those of others.
- Builds the capacity of duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations to children: not “moral luck”
- Relationships based in human rights values are necessary for realising children’s rights.
- Prioritises children’s expertise in their own childhood experiences, ideas and opinions – through an environment that enables participation and self-advocacy



I love the rope swing. It makes you fly among the trees. The bluebells are like a blanket on the ground as far as I can see. You can also climb the fallen trees.



# Learning for Sustainability: Phase One: 2021-2022

Why is Learning for Sustainability important to you?

Key calls to action from 100+ Members of Children's Parliament shared in our report and ThingLink resource on the following topics:

- Outdoor learning
- Sustainable development/  
Climate emergency
- Global citizenship

**All children should have the chance to learn outdoors throughout the school year**

**Adults in school and adults who decide what we learn, need to learn about the climate emergency too.**

**Scottish schools should have links to other schools around the world.**



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## LfS and Rights-Based Practice

- The importance of Learning for Sustainability as a holistic curriculum area, underpinned by the UNCRC, to meet educational, participatory, and environmental rights
  - Prioritization, consistency, complexity
  - Adult CPD
- Understanding of rights and responsibilities versus adult action
- Rights, agency and action
  - Building children's capacity as rights-bearers in the current world
  - Children's meaningful participation
  - Impact assessments



## What do children say success looks like?

- Feedback loops
- Action matching children's passion
- Intergenerational relationship-building
- Fun, creativity, accessibility
  - Not just voice
  - Listening to “children's silences”
- Accountability mechanisms

“If adults want to know something, they should just ask us!” MCP, age 10



## Unfeartie

**S** Unfearties are individuals who are courageous in discussing children's issues, are making a difference in children's lives, and who are willing to speak up for, and stand alongside, children.

Join the Unfearties by visiting

[bit.ly/Unfeartie](https://bit.ly/Unfeartie)

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## Unfeartie

### CODE

Unfearties are individuals who are not feart (afraid). Unfearties are brave in discussing and defending children's human rights. Unfearties make a difference in children's lives by keeping the promises enshrined in the UNCRC.

**Unfearties stand with children to make rights real in day to day life by:**

- Helping children to be happy, healthy and safe.
- Listening to children.
- Modelling and living the values of trust, kindness, empathy, respect for human dignity in everyday life.
- Seeing children as capable and valued members of their communities.
- Creating space for children to share ideas.
- Promoting greater awareness + understanding of children's rights.
- Challenging infringements of children's human dignity.
- Contributing to an atmosphere of love, understanding and happiness.
- Standing together with children to campaign for change and support their calls to action.

*"A nest of fearties is what they do not want".*

– From Edwin Morgan's poem 'Open the Doors' written for the opening of the Scottish Parliament 2004.

**unfeartie**

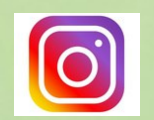
*Are you an Unfeartie?  
Join our movement.*



Thank



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