

unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



**RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS**

Article 20

Article 20 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to special protection and help if they can't live with their family.



Human rights when you're in care

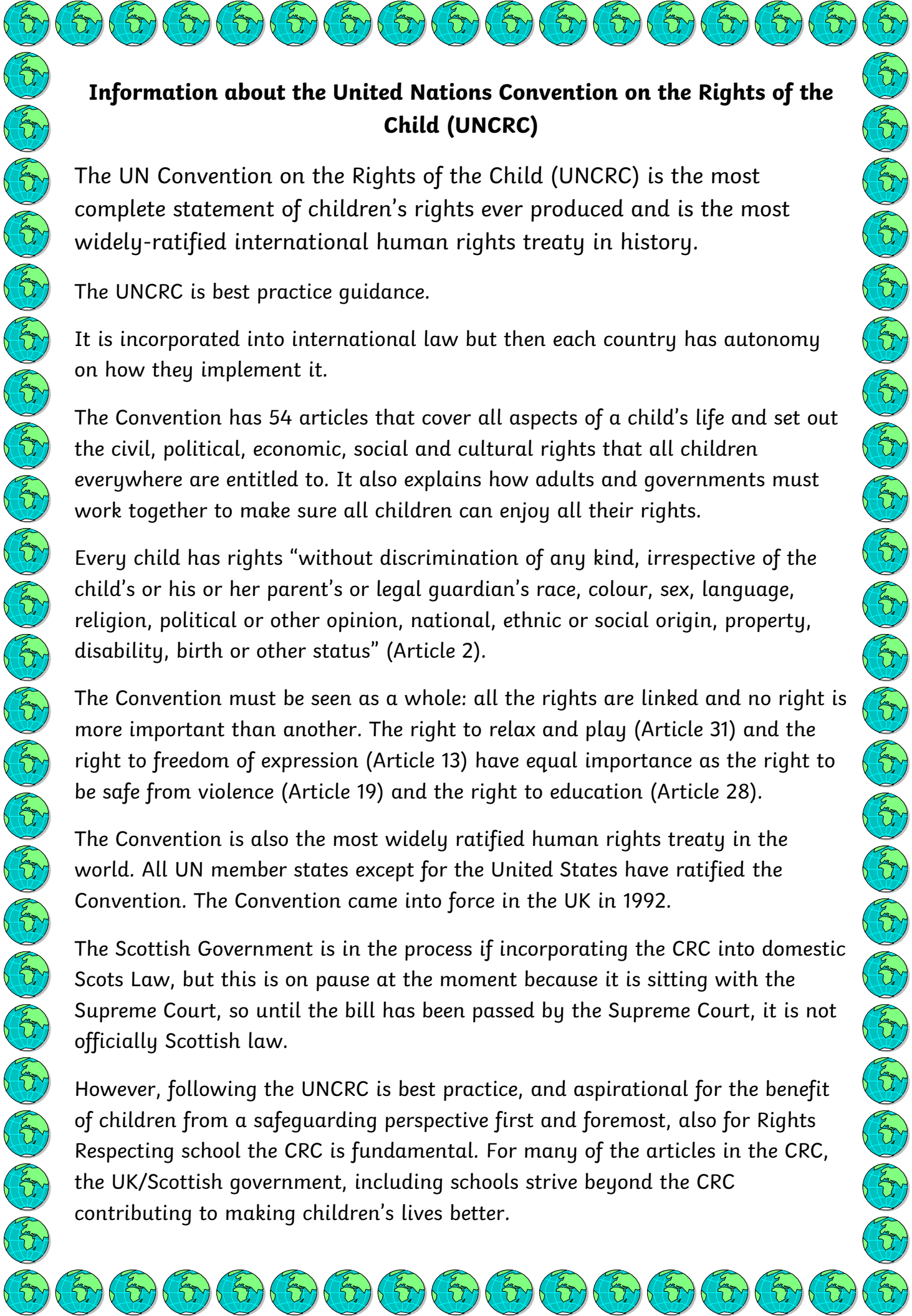
Children and young people have the right to go into care, and to have their rights respected when they are there. There should be independent checks to make sure that their rights are respected, especially if they are disabled or a refugee.

The opinions of children and young people in care should be listened to and taken seriously. They must have the freedom to do things they want to do and be able to grow up safely and happily.

In Scotland children and young people in care have additional rights under Scots law.

See the link below for additional information.

[2021-DGD-Submission-Alternative-Care.pdf \(cypcs.org.uk\)](#)



Information about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.

The UNCRC is best practice guidance.

It is incorporated into international law but then each country has autonomy on how they implement it.

The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Every child has rights "without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status" (Article 2).

The Convention must be seen as a whole: all the rights are linked and no right is more important than another. The right to relax and play (Article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (Article 13) have equal importance as the right to be safe from violence (Article 19) and the right to education (Article 28).

The Convention is also the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. All UN member states except for the United States have ratified the Convention. The Convention came into force in the UK in 1992.

The Scottish Government is in the process of incorporating the CRC into domestic Scots Law, but this is on pause at the moment because it is sitting with the Supreme Court, so until the bill has been passed by the Supreme Court, it is not officially Scottish law.

However, following the UNCRC is best practice, and aspirational for the benefit of children from a safeguarding perspective first and foremost, also for Rights Respecting school the CRC is fundamental. For many of the articles in the CRC, the UK/Scottish government, including schools strive beyond the CRC contributing to making children's lives better.