



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

November - Article of the Month - ARTICLE 18

I have the right to be brought up by both parents if possible.

Article 18 of the UNCRC says that a child or young person's parents will normally have the main responsibility for bringing them up. They should both do this, both share responsibilities, and both be concerned with the best interests of the child or young person in their care.

If a child or young person only lives with one parent, their other parent should provide them with support. The form this support takes will depend on what that child or young person's best interests are. Children and young people shouldn't be discriminated against if their parents aren't married or never were.

When it isn't possible for a child or young person to be brought up by their parents, they should be cared for.

[Article 20 of the UNCRC details rights about going into care.](#)

Government responsibilities

Scotland and the UK have a responsibility to assist parents where they can, and this responsibility is carried by people employed by the State who are involved in a child or young person's upbringing. These people include:

- people who run playgroups or youth clubs
- school guidance counsellors
- school nurses.

The Scottish and UK Governments should review how their employees assist parents, to make sure they are keeping their human rights promises to children under this article of the UNCRC.