



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

Article of the Month - Article 15:

I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups.

Article 15 of the UNCRC makes it clear that – like all people in the world – children and young people have the human right to freedom of association.

This means that they should be free to:

1. meet individual people and groups of friends,
2. set up an organisation,
3. join an organisation, and
4. take part in peaceful protest.

While Article 15 of the UNCRC promotes freedom of association, it does say there are some circumstances where it doesn't apply. For example:

- children and young people can't meet with individuals or groups when they threaten their rights. For example, they can't meet people who are likely to pose a danger to them.
- children and young people can't meet with individuals or groups when they would threaten other people's rights.
- children and young people can't meet with individuals or groups in order to break the law.

Myths and Misconceptions

Children have the right to have friends...

Myth

Children have the right to meet with friends, but we cannot legislate people's affinity to others so it cannot be a legal requirement for children to have friends.

