

Article 32

Protection from harmful work

Children have the right to be protected from doing work that is dangerous or bad for their education, health or development. If children work, they have the right to be safe and paid fairly



In Scotland, they're not allowed to do almost any kind of work until they are 13. Rules about the work they can do remain in place until they are 18.

In Scotland, the law states that children, who are under school leaving age, are allowed to work but only if, for example, their safety, health, development and education etc. are not put at risk. The rules about employing children are set by local authorities so they can differ across Scotland. For information about local byelaws, you should contact your local authority, or look at their website. You can be employed whether or not you are paid for the work. The same rules apply if you are employed by a parent or carer.

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What work can I do?

The type of work that you are allowed to do will depend on your age and also the local authority area in which you are working.

Under child employment law, children under 13 cannot be employed. However, children under the age of 13 years can take part in sport, advertising, modelling, films, television, theatre productions or other entertainment, if the local authority child performance licensing rules are followed. More information is available here:

Introduction - Employment of children: a guide for children - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

The number of hours a child or young person can work in a week should be limited by the government. When they work, they should be protected from violence

There are 160 million children worldwide who are engaged in work which is harmful for their development and often means they can't access their rights to be safe, healthy and have an education.

Some of the reasons that children should be protected from working, especially in dangerous conditions are...

Their family should have a good enough standard of living without them working.

Children should be in education.

Their health and safety should be protected.

Children's views and best interests should be considered.

Other harm could come to them in the workplace.

It could lead to further exploitation or trafficking.

They should have time to be a child and have all their rights.