

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment: School Library Policy

What is a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)?



You have certain rights protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Scotland signed into law in July 2024.

Every time East Lothian Council creates a new policy or measure, we need to ask how that policy or measure might affect your rights. We need to make sure our decisions do not stop you and others from exercising these rights. A CRWIA helps us ask the right questions and make the right decisions.

This CRWIA covers the **Secondary School Library Policy** (January 2025). There is a child-friendly version of this policy available (Appendix 1).

What is the Secondary School Library Policy?

The policy outlines the rules and expectations for all East Lothian Secondary School Libraries. It includes information about:

- When school libraries are open
- How pupils can use the library space, resources, and books
- What happens if someone isn't treating the library, or others in it, with respect
- How books are chosen for the library



How does the policy uphold my rights?

Making sure all secondary pupils have access to quality school library services helps promote your rights under UNCRC, such as:

- **Article 13:** Sharing thoughts freely
- **Article 17:** Access to information
- **Article 28:** Access to education
- **Article 31:** Rest, play, culture, arts



How might the policy limit my rights?

Every pupil has the right to access their school library and borrow books and to feel safe doing so. Sometimes one right might be limited so another can be protected.

For example, sharing thoughts freely (**Article 13**) does not include hate speech, name-calling, slurs, or anything that interferes with someone else's right to non-discrimination (**Article 2**).

The policy balances the rights of everyone using the library, so the library can be a safe place for learning.

How was the policy made?

East Lothian School Librarians wrote the policy. They used examples from other school libraries, feedback from teachers, and their own experiences to write the policy.

They also surveyed secondary pupils on their views in October and November 2024. This makes sure your views are heard and respected (**Article 12**).

The policy will be reviewed every five years, and pupils will be asked for their views each time.



Opening hours

Section 2



The library is open to pupils during the school day, whenever possible.

Sometimes, the library might need to be closed because of illness, or because the library staff are at an important meeting, event, or are somewhere else in the school.

We will always try to tell you ahead of time if the library is going to be closed when it normally is open.

Book borrowing

Sections 3; 5.2



Pupils and staff can borrow items from the school library for free. They can also request items from public libraries, and borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks through BorrowBox.

You can keep books for three weeks. Please return books on time and in good condition, so new readers can borrow them. If books are lost or damaged, you may have to pay to replace them.

Some items may be restricted for loan to certain borrowers, based on the age appropriateness of the book.

Code of Conduct

Section 4



We expect pupils to treat the library space, resources, and each other with respect.

If you are not showing respectful behaviour, or your actions might cause others to feel unsafe, you may be asked to leave the library.

Library collections

Section 5



The School Librarian aims to have a diverse and exciting collection of fiction and non-fiction books for all reading levels.

To help choose books for the library, the School Librarian will ask pupils what they would like to read.

Right to media and information

Section 6



Under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children and young people have the right to access mass media information from a wide range of sources (Article 17) and to participate in culture and the arts (Article 13).

Each pupil and their parent/carer also has the right to decide what is appropriate for themselves and/or their children to read, and should let others do the same (Article 5).

If you have a concern about a book that is in the library collection, speak to your School Librarian.