

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment: Museum Access 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 **Museum Access Policy** (March 2025). There is a child-friendly version of this policy available (Appendix 1).

What is the Museum Access Policy?

The Access Policy describes how the Museums Service makes museum buildings, programmes and collections widely accessible. It includes information about:

- How you can find out about museum collections, exhibitions and events.
- How we make sure these are accessible for as many people as possible including children and young people.
- The educational resources we provide for children and young people.
- How we make sure our buildings are welcoming and accessible (easy to find and move around in).



How does the policy uphold my rights?

Making sure everyone including all young people living in or visiting East Lothian can access museums and museum collections helps promote your rights under the UNCRC. Examples of these rights are:

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



How might the policy limit my rights?

We will occasionally have to charge for an event or activity. However, we will keep these charges as low as possible. We will always provide events or activities for free if we can.

You have to travel to visit our museums in person. However, we have resources that we can deliver to your school / group and online if it is difficult to visit us in person.

How was the policy made?

East Lothian Council Museum Service staff wrote the policy. They used examples from other museums and their own experiences. They also used feedback from children, young people, carers and teachers. This makes sure your views are heard and respected (UNCRC **Article 12**).

The policy will be reviewed every five years. Children and young people will be asked for your views every time.



Museum Access Policy

Appendix 1 | last updated March 2025

Museums

Sections 10, 11, 12



Under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 31 children and young people have the right to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Museums are open during the week but also at weekends so you [children and young people] can visit them.

It is free to visit museums. Sometimes we will charge for an activity or event but these costs will be as low as possible.

You can find our buildings easily and find your way around them easily.

Our buildings are welcoming, safe and comfortable to visit. We have toilets, places to sit down and things to do.

Exhibitions, displays, promotion and marketing

Section 6



Information is shown in interesting and different ways.

You can find out about the museums in different ways.

Learning and information about collections

Sections 5, 8, 9



School and learning visits are available at the museums.

Museums have activities and information for all ages.

Learning resources can be delivered to your school or group if you cannot visit the museum.

We have lots of museum information online.

If you would like to see the full Museum Access Policy please contact us directly via this email address: elms@eastlothian.gov.uk. The policy will be updated every five years. You have a right to be heard and have your views taken seriously (UNCRC, Article 12). We survey visitors, tourists and school groups to find out what they think of our museums and their visit and we used that information to help write this policy.