

# Education Workshop

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Right to Education

- ▶ Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is clear that children have the right to an education no matter who they are, regardless of race, gender or disability, if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee.
- ▶ Children and young people have the right to both primary and secondary education and should be able to choose different subjects when in secondary school. This should include the option of technical and vocational training, so they shouldn't have to focus on academic subjects if they don't want to.
- ▶ The government should support children and young people in education; make efforts to reduce dropout rates from school and make sure children or young people aren't bullied by their teachers or classmates.

# Right to Education

- ▶ **Article 29** of the UNCRC says that a child or young person's education should help their mind, body and talents be the best they can. It should also build their respect for other people and the world around them. In particular, they should learn to respect:
  - ▶ their rights and the rights of others
  - ▶ their freedoms and the freedoms of others
  - ▶ their parents
  - ▶ the identity, language and values of countries including their own.
- ▶ Education should prepare children and young people for a responsible life in a free society. It should teach them how to live in an understanding and tolerant way that is non-violent and that respects the environment.

# Key Issues

- ▶ Many of the requests for advice we receive involve education
- ▶ These issues can include: access to education; exclusion; school behaviour policies; support for Special Educational Needs; and bullying
- ▶ Children with additional needs are not always given same choice of secondary school
- ▶ We know that there is a significant difference between the number of children and young people who have a Special Educational Need (SEN) and those who have a Record of Need (RoN)

# Key Issues

- ▶ Rates of exclusion have been rising in Jersey in primary and secondary school. This is disproportionately amongst male pupils, and often those with a Record of Need or in receipt of the Jersey Premium
  - ▶ Exclusions have risen from 350 in 2014/2015 to 911 in 2018/2019 in secondary schools
  - ▶ In primary schools, it has risen from 27 in 2014/2015 to 82 in 2018/2019
  - ▶ Legislation does not permit a child who is under 18 a right to appeal in their own name against a decision to suspend/exclude them from education.
- ▶ Bullying has consistently been raised as an issue by children and young people:
  - ▶ *“Help schools to stop bullying and do something to stop this happening. Last month I was kicked in my shin and Mum went to my teacher about it. I’m always left out and never allowed to play at playtime.”*

# Key Issues

- ▶ We have also heard from children and young people about the impact of coronavirus on their education:
- ▶ *“I feel overwhelmed by my workload and end up working late into the night to get it finished. I still have a big backlog of work though and am anxious about going back to school without it done even though I spend almost every waking hour on it.”*
- ▶ We also have concerns around the impact of digital exclusion, the variance in quality and access to home schooling during school closures

# Discussion Questions

- ▶ Do these issues mirror what you are hearing?
- ▶ Are there other issues that you are aware of?
- ▶ Have you noticed any emerging patterns recently?
- ▶ Do you have any data or reports you could signpost us to?