United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the world’s most widely accepted human rights agreement. 191 countries have signed it. It has 54 articles.

Every child has rights and has the right to know what they are.

These rights apply to everyone under 18 in every country of the world (Article 1). Although some of them might seem more relevant to you as a young Londoner than others, it’s good to think globally and the Convention can help you to understand about the rights of children in all parts of the world.
Protection from discrimination. This means that nobody can treat you badly because of your colour, sex or religion, if you have a disability or are rich or poor.

Have your interests protected by adults who make decisions about you.

Have your rights made a reality by the government.
5. Be given guidance by your parents and family
6. Life
7. A name and a nationality
8. An identity
9. Live with your parents unless this is bad for you
10. Live in the same country as your parents
11. Be protected from being kidnapped and taken out of your country
Give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Get information and express what you think, unless it is against other people’s rights.

Chose your own religion and beliefs, with your parents’ guidance.

Choose your own friends and join or set up clubs as long as it isn’t harmful to others.

Privacy. For example you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see.
Get information from the tv, radio, newspapers, books and the internet. You should also be protected from information that might be harmful to you.

Be brought up by your parents if possible.

Protection from being hurt or being badly treated.

Special care and protection if you can’t live with your parents.

The best possible care if you are adopted.

Special protection and help if you are a refugee.
Special care and education if you have a disability

Good health and medical care

Have your living arrangements checked regularly if you are looked after away from home

Help from the government if you are poor or in need

Have your basic needs met. This includes food, clothing and a safe place to live

Education
29 Education that develops your talents and abilities. Your education should encourage you to respect other people's rights and values.

30 Use your own language and practice your own culture and religion.

31 Play and free time.

32 Protection from work that is bad for your health and education.

33 Be protected from taking, making and selling dangerous drugs.
34 Be protected from sexual abuse
35 Not to be abducted or sold
36 Protection from any other kind of exploitation
37 Not to be punished in a cruel way or tortured and not to be put in prison with adults
38 Not be in an army or fight in a war before you are 15. If you are affected by war you must be protected
39 Help if you have been hurt or badly treated
Help in defending yourself, and to have your age taken into account, if you are accused of breaking the law.

Any rights in laws in your country or internationally which give you better rights than these.
Know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn them.

Articles 43 – 54 are about how adults and governments, such as the Greater London Authority, should work together to make sure all children get all of their rights met.
For more information about your rights and how they relate to you as a young Londoner, contact the Young Londoners Network.

www.london.gov.uk/young-london
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0207 983 4521

This leaflet is available in a variety of accessible formats and languages. Call 020 7983 4100 for more information.

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