

The Children's Act 1989

10 principles:

1. Paramountcy
2. – the child's welfare should be the paramount concern for a court determining any question with respect to a child
3. Delay – in any proceedings in respect of a child's upbringing the court should be aware that any delay is likely to be detrimental to the child's welfare
4. No order – no court should make an order in respect of a child unless it considers that to make an order would be better for the child than not doing so
5. Individuality – All children should be treated as individuals. Their opinions should be listened to and all decisions should take account of the wishes of the child
6. Placement – central to the act are the linked principles that children are generally best brought up by their families and that a child's upbringing is primarily the responsibility of its parents
7. Partnership – the local authority should strive to work in partnership with the child, the parents and carers and other relevant interested parties provided this approach is consistent with the child's welfare
8. Participation – Children, parents, carers and other relevant interested parties should all be given the opportunity to participate actively in the decision making process
9. Consultation – before any decision is made which will affect a child, the child, parents, carers and other relevant interested parties should be consulted
10. Accountability – successful partnership will only be achieved if parents and children are made aware of powers and duties and any action that local authorities might take

10. Consultation/cooperation and co-ordination – central to the Children's Act and crucial to the success of child protection work is the principle that all departments of the Local Authority and the other relevant agencies (including police, health and voluntary organisations) should consult, co-operate and co-ordinate their activities so as to achieve the best result for the child and/or his or her family