**Logo

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGuidelines for Contributors**

**(including the journal’s style requirements)**

**Publisher**

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**Aim and Scope**

The Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (SJRCC) is a peer-reviewed, open access e-journal which aims to provide a rich forum for debate and dissemination about the topical issues in residential child care research, policy, and practice.

We currently publish two issues per year in spring and autumn. All issues and published articles are available in our back catalogue. We also publish occasional special themed issues and have published a special series of individual articles related to COVID-19.

The topics covered are wide ranging and relate to all aspects of residential child care, including the interface between residential care and other contexts, such as health, education and other care settings, as well as topics relating to children’s wellbeing in public care.

We publish:

* Original Research Articles (including conceptual) (max. 6,000 words)
* Short Articles (including reflections on experience, accounts of innovative practice, commentaries on research, methodological papers from doctoral studies, new policy, or practice (500-3,000 words)
* Reviews of relevant conferences (max. 1,000 words)
* Correspondence articles (max. 1,000 words)
* Book reviews (max. 1,000 words)
* Obituaries (max. 1,000 words)

**Article requirements**

* Contributions should be written in an accessible style appropriate for a multi-disciplinary and international audience.
* Authors should not assume readers are familiar with local policy and law and should be mindful that our readership is international.
* Authors should consider the wider application of their work, particularly to the practice setting.
* The language of the SJRCC is English.
* Spelling must be consistent within an article and use UK/Irish form.
* Spelling in references, however, should follow the original.
* Avoid or minimise the use of professional jargon and be mindful that the use of contractions for terminology can be distracting.
* Contributions should be carefully proof-read before submission. Poorly proofed articles may be returned without review.
* In-text citations and end of article references must be in APA7 format.
* Although each article type has a maximum word count this does not include Abstract, References, or About the Author.

**Ethics**

Empirical research will only be published if the research has been conducted in full accordance with ethical principles, and the paper details the appropriate ethical procedures followed by the researchers. Where adults or young people have been directly involved as participants in research, the approach to gaining consent must be reported, including details of any incentives provided.

**Format of articles**

* Contributions must be submitted using the appropriate template provided in the Submission Pack.
* Templated styles for body text, block quotations, headings etc. should not be altered.
* Original Research and Short Articles must include an abstract (summary) of no more than 200 words. Other article types do not require this.
* Up to six relevant keywords should be provided. The final keyword should be the name of the country upon which the article is based, if appropriate.
* We prefer a maximum of three levels of headings within the article and our templates are set up to provide you with these. Headings should use a capital only for the first word. A capital should be used for the first word following a colon in titles and headings.
* Tables, graphs, or other graphics must be appropriately captioned using the styles provided within the template.
* Endnotes or footnotes may be provided but should be kept to a minimum and should not be used for references.
* References must be in APA7 format.

**Quotations**

* Use single quotation marks, with double quotation marks for an inner quotation: 'xxxx "yyyy" xxxxx'.
* Longer quotations (more than 40 words) should be in blocked text, on a separate line and indented, with no quotation marks (please use ‘Quote’ pre-set within the styles pane in the template).
* Quotations should follow the original (e.g., where US spelling is used).
* Page references should be provided for all quotations.
* Punctuation follows single quotation marks. For example: Jones (2009, p.17) asserts that 'all cats are magnificent'.

**References**

The referencing system is APA7. While we will edit minor errors in referencing at proof stage, authors should note that where articles use other referencing formats, this will be commented on by our reviewers and will be included in advice for revision. We advise using software for formatting citations and references (e.g., Endnote). There are several free online guides to APA7, e.g., <https://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk/referencing_guide/apa> . Please include DOIs (digital object identifiers) where available.

**Naming convention for files**

All documents submitted should adhere to the following naming conventions: Surname\_Initial\_Name\_of\_Article e.g. a submission from Andrew Jones named ‘All cats are magnificent’ would be named: Jones\_A\_All\_cats\_are\_magnificent

**Submitting your article**

Please ensure that you have used the correct template for your article type and that you have followed our style requirements (see above).

Authors names, contact information, affiliations, and About the Author(s) should be included in the submission of an Original Research Article. Information which identifies the author will be removed and retained by Journal Administrator before being sent for review as a redacted version. This information will then be returned to the final version of the article once the review process is complete.

You must include a completed Submission Form with your article. This is a requirement for publication and omission could delay publication of the article.

Send your submission to the Journal Administrator at sjrcc@strath.ac.uk with the title of the contribution in the subject line of the email, and a brief description of the nature of your contribution in the body of the email.

All submissions will be acknowledged. The review process may take up to six weeks. We will try to keep you informed about delays, but if you have not heard from us within a reasonable length of time, please feel free to get in touch about progress.

**Review policy**

All articles are reviewed prior to publication.

Original Research Articles (maximum length 6,000 words) are sent to at least two members of our reviewing panel for double blind review i.e., reviewers are not given authors’ names, are unaware of the other reviewers, and review reports are provided to authors without naming the reviewers.

All other article types, including Short Articles, are sent to at least one member of our reviewing panel. We do not blind these reviews, particularly as we also use this as a way of encouraging and advising new or less experienced authors.

We do not always send the full reviewers’ reports to authors, especially if there are differences in advice between reviewers. In such cases, the editor will draft a letter summarising our requirements for any revisions required before publication will be re-considered.

The decision of the Editors is final.

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Articles are assigned a digital objective identifier (DOI) for persistent citation and discovery purposes. Authors retain copyright and full publishing rights without restriction, though we do request that publication in SJRCC is acknowledged in any other use of the article.

**I have an idea for an article but am unsure if it is suitable**

We will be very happy to give advice. Please submit a summary of your ideas (no greater than 200 words) to sjrcc@strath.ac.uk with the title of the contribution in the subject line of the email, and a brief description of the nature of your contribution and any questions you have in the body of the email.

**Revised March 2025**