



Denying
child rights
is wrong.
Put it right.

THE RIGHTS-RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD





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THE CRC AS A GUIDE TO LIVING

The vision:

A Rights Respecting School with the values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at its heart. Over the past three years a number of schools have worked with us to explore a way of realising this vision. The outcome is the Rights-Respecting Schools Award.



Taking responsibility for each other at a UNICEF rights-respecting school in West London



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...it is where young people gain self-esteem by learning about the rights they have from birth and build from there



- I learn about my rights
- I feel included
- My self-esteem rises
- I can begin to think about others and their rights
- I learn to negotiate
- My language and thinking skills are extended



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Where children learn...

The difference between
wants and **needs**

That Needs = **Rights**

That my rights are also
your rights i.e. we now
learn we have a
responsibility.



Learning about the CRC in an infant school
in the UK. Displays serve as useful reminders



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...it is where young people learn that rights bring responsibilities for adults and children

If children have a right to be protected from conflict, cruelty, exploitation and neglect...



...**then** they also have a responsibility not to bully or harm each other.

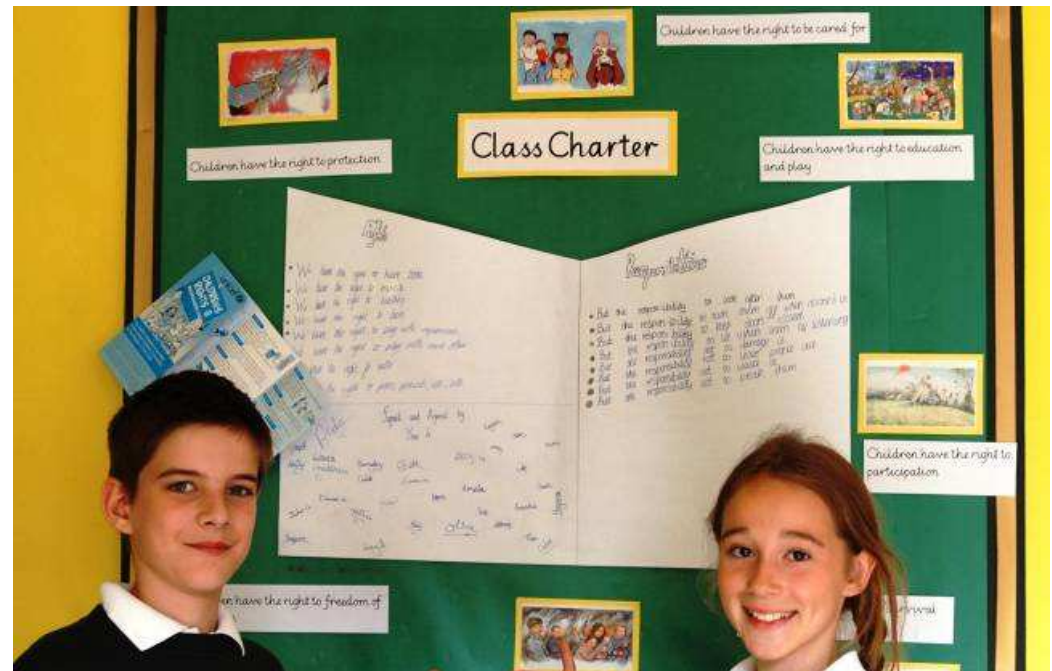


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It's a school where...

Everyone learns to use
the **language** of rights,
respect and responsibility

Adults and young people
model rights-respecting
behaviour and language



Young people draw up a charter for their class based on the CRC. They respect the charter because they have a sense of ownership



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...where children become active global citizens

- Universality of human rights
- Identity
- Challenge injustice, inequality and poverty in the world

Display of children's work on Fair Trade at
Kings Park Primary School, Bournemouth.
The theme: Trade and rights and responsibilities





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By 10 years of age, most children in rights-respecting Primary Schools can...

- give examples of how their own actions have consequences – positive and negative – for the rights of others globally
- talk about the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- give a range of examples of rights abuses from the immediate context of the school to the global context
- use the CRC as a framework for making moral judgements across a range of issues including justice and sustainability
- understand that their own rights are linked with a wide range of personal responsibilities
- critically evaluate the actions of those with power, including governments, through reference to human rights



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2. WHAT IS THE AWARD SCHEME AND HOW DOES IT WORK?





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The UNICEF RRSA in a nutshell

Schools demonstrate that the CRC is embedded in their ethos and curriculum so that a rights- respecting culture has been developed to a certain standard

- UNICEF UK provides standards, validation statements and action plan
- **Level 1** of the Award before **Level 2** status
- Assessed by self-evaluation and external assessment visit



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Key elements on the journey to the RRSA

- Audit
- School Action plan
- Training and support
- School Community RRSA steering group
- Pupil focus groups
- Parent focus group
- Self-evaluation
- External assessment



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5. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A RIGHTS-RESPECTING SCHOOL?

- a. Improvements in children's well-being
- b. A values framework giving greater coherence to school improvement strategies
- c. School community cohesion through shared values



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a) Improvements in children's well-being

There is **growing** evidence that becoming a RRS contributes to:

- Improved pupil self-esteem
- Pupils' enhanced moral development
- Improved behaviour and relationships
- More positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Pupils' development as global citizens
- Enhanced job satisfaction for teachers
- Overall school improvement including better attendance, learning and academic standards



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b) A values framework giving greater coherence to school improvement strategies





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Is this



the missing link?