

St Nicholas Primary School Rights Respecting School Policy

At St. Nicholas Primary School we are working towards recognition of RRS. We have been awarded Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Evidence shows that children who are aware of their rights and responsibilities are able to make informed decisions and are more likely to grow into confident, active and responsible citizens. In addition they can benefit from:

- Improved self-esteem and well-being
- Improved relationships and behaviour
- Improved engagement in learning
- Enhanced moral understanding and support for Global justice
- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and reduction of prejudice

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a comprehensive human rights treaty that enshrines specific children's rights in international law. The CRC consists of 54 articles. A 'child' is defined as every human being below the age of 18.

What is a Rights Respecting School?

The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between teachers/adults and pupils, between adults and between pupils.

What will children learn?

By learning about the Convention, children can discover that:

- They have rights
- They should be informed about their rights
- They should be helped to exercise their rights
- They should be able to enforce their rights
- There should be a community of interest to advocate young people's rights

What will this look like in school?

- There is a RRS steering group consisting of 10 children across Years 1-6, a teacher and a governor.
- The steering group will meet fortnightly or once a month to discuss ways of making our schools a place that respects the rights and responsibilities of the pupils and staff.
- The steering group will make sure that everyone (staff, pupils, parents) is aware of the UNCRC articles.
- Each class has devised a Class Charter which displays their rights and responsibilities. These are signed by the children to show they agree to follow these rules.
- Displays in school will be linked to relevant articles.
- Staff will refer to relevant articles in their lessons.
- The schools will carry out activities throughout the year to raise awareness of the different articles.
- The School Council have helped to create our new Playground Charter, displayed in our playground.