



Let's Focus on Rights



Why are children learning about their rights at school?

In signing the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child all Governments have a responsibility to make both children and adults aware of these rights. Schools are the best place to reach the vast majority of children. The Rights Respecting School (RRS) initiative is based on teaching about rights throughout the curriculum, using the articles from the UN Convention.

How does teaching about children's rights fit in with the aims of the school?

The aim of both RRS and the school is to help children to achieve their potential and become responsible, global citizens. What is taught through RRS helps children learn respect for self & others, critical thinking skills, and how to make informed decisions about both local and global issues.

What about children's respect for the rights of others?

It is made clear that children not only have rights, but also the responsibility to respect the rights of others. That includes respect for adults, their values and culture. The Convention recognises the central importance of parents

Evidence shows that when children are taught in school about their rights under the UN Convention, they are more respecting of the rights of others and demonstrate:

- ✓ A better understanding of what it means to have rights and responsibilities
- ✓ More positive attitudes to school
- ✓ Better relationships with their classmates and teachers
- ✓ Higher self-esteem

Our RRS journey so far...

- Children created a class charter using the articles from the UN convention to promote respect within the classroom.
- Class charters were agreed by all, displayed within the classroom and used to promote positive behaviour.
- Links were made within all curricular areas to incorporate rights into daily teaching, assemblies and pupil groups.
- Global citizenship became a focus for children to begin to understand not only their own rights but the rights of others.



Achieved our Level 1 RRS Award

Next Steps

- Continue on to RRS Level 2 Award
- Use higher order thinking skills (HOTS) to analyse global citizenship
- Create a whole school charter
- Continue to make links within all areas of the curriculum.

BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
IN THE WORLD
HAS ONE THING
IN COMMON.
THEIR RIGHTS.



Top Tips for RRS

How can parents support what children are learning about RRS at school?

Take the time to ask your child what he/she has learned recently regarding children's rights.

Discuss the ideas learned in class, and try to think of examples from your own experiences, or from the media, of rights being respected or denied.

Ask your child's opinion on children's rights.

Discuss both local and global poverty issues with your child in simple terms.

Discuss how your child or your family can promote respect for rights, or help those whose rights have been violated.



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Useful Websites

https://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publication-pdfs/betterlifeleaflet2012_press.pdf (UN Article Leaflet)

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Education/Rights-Respecting-Schools-Award/>

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround (Topical Issues)

