

We are proud to be a Silver
'Rights Respecting School'

We are delighted that we have been accredited with this prestigious award by UNICEF, a leading organisation supporting children and their rights across the world. It supports schools across the UK to embed human rights in their ethos and culture. The award recognises achievement in putting the UNCRC at the heart of the schools practice to improve well-being and help all children realise their potential.

'Strong and mutually respectful relationships are a significant feature of the school and considerable work has been undertaken to develop a positive and solution-oriented approach. St Paul's has a whole school relationships-based approach to behaviour which correlates to the rights. One of the children said that, if there is a falling out, "You have the right to your opinion and to be treated fairly." The pupils trust that the systems in their school achieve this.'

UNICEF Report March 2022

It recognises the work that **duty-bearers**; teachers, staff and other adults, do to ensure that all children can access their rights as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

‘All children spoke very positively about the trust they have in adults in school to respond to any concerns and worries they have. A member of staff explained that “Bringing the language of rights into the way we speak has made a huge difference...” and has added to the children’s sense of empowerment and autonomy. The children described life in school as being very fair; “But if we find something unfair we can go to our Pupil Leadership Group and something would be done about it!” Most strands of school life are informed by or linked to the Convention and rights have helped to underpin the school’s culture.’

UNICEF Report March 2022

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.

‘Staff have received training and are reminded to make links and use rights respecting language in a range of ways. One

adult explained “The children soak it up and the rights have become second nature to us all now...they are much more socially and globally aware.” The school’s leaders are very clear that becoming rights respecting has had a positive influence on the school, linking to their existing vision and values “It supports our aim to build their resilience...the rights give them strength to believe in themselves.” The staff team and governors are wholeheartedly committed to a rights-based approach and parents have shared positive examples of their children referring to their rights appropriately at home’.

UNICEF REPORT MARCH 2022

The ‘Rights Respecting School Award’ (RRSA) helps our children grow into thoughtful, respectful and responsible young members of the school and wider community. By learning about their rights, our children also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others.

The UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) runs throughout the life of St Paul’s and is referenced in all of our policies, lessons and strategic planning.

At St Paul's C of E Primary School both staff and children are passionate about upholding the rights of children. As duty bearers, the staff ensure that children's rights are referenced in policies as they are updated and we regularly introduce key initiatives to focus on upholding the children's rights.

As rights holders, the views of the children are very important to us and the UNCRC focuses our discussions with the school council. The children's ideas are raised with the staff and are put into practice.

We have witnessed that this award has a really positive influence on the school community, including:

- Improved self-esteem and wellbeing
- Improved relationships and behaviour
- Improved engagement in learning
- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction in prejudice
- Children's enhanced moral understanding and support for global justice
- Children becoming more involved in decision making in school.