





Article 16

Every child has the right to privacy.




Article 28

Every child has the right to education.






A message from the RRSA and all the pupils at Valewood!

Article 24

Every child has the right to clean water.




What is a Rights Respecting School?

Information for Parents and Carers

What is a Rights Respecting School?

Rights Respecting Schools is an initiative run by UNICEF UK based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

It is a series of three levels of award that schools work towards achieving:

Bronze, Silver and Gold.

But...

What is the UNCRC?



Article 24

Every child has the right to play.



Article 16

Every child has the right to be free from harm.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a statement of children's rights. It has 54 articles that cover all areas of a child's life and it sets out the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights that all children are entitled to. The Convention came into force in the UK in January 1992. Every classroom has a copy of the UNCRC on display and many articles are referenced all around the school.

What do schools have to do to become a Rights Respecting School?

Achieving any of the RRS awards is not just about proving that as a school we have completed a task or covered set criteria, it is about a commitment to placing the rights of the child at the centre of everything we do throughout the school and in all areas of school life.

Together the children (Rights Holders) and adults (Duty Bearers) learn about children's rights and put them into practice every day.

In RRS, children's rights are promoted and realised, adults and the children work towards this goal together.



WE ALWAYS THINK RIGHTS!

What do schools have to do to become a Rights Respecting School?

The journey to receiving the Gold award can take many years. UNICEF UK works with schools as they work towards becoming Rights Respecting. UNICEF UK helps teachers work with children throughout the school on issues facing the world today. Topics include the plight of refugees, the environment and climate change.

UNICEF UK will also assess the school when it is ready for each award.

Once a school has been awarded Silver and Gold accreditations these have to be reviewed after three years to ensure schools are still putting children and young people's rights first in their school's practice and ethos.

Why are we a Rights Respecting School?

A Rights Respecting School means **better relationships**.

Relationships are based on mutual respect; everyone is equal and everyone's opinion is valued.

A Rights Respecting School means **children feel safe**.

Through knowing the UNCRC, children are able to think about how they and others are treated and challenge what they see as unfair.

A Rights Respecting School means **promoting global citizenship**.

Through the areas studied, children are involved in raising awareness about social justice issues, at home and around the world. The children become ambassadors for equity and rights and take part in campaigns and activities to help bring about change.

A Rights Respecting School means **happier children**.

By actively promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination, that are at the heart of the UNCRC, children's self-esteem and wellbeing is strengthened.

A Rights Respecting School means children **play an active part in school life**.

Children are involved in decisions being made about their learning and well-being. Our pupil voice leaderships teams are a vehicle for representation in school development and a culture of having your voice heard is part and parcel of everyday life in every class.

So what can you do to help drive Rights Respecting Schools?

As Duty Bearers it is your responsibility to ensure children (Rights Holders) get their rights.

You can...

- Talk to your children about what they know and are learning about the UNCRC and their rights.
- Ask the children to recall their rights and the ABCDE of Children's Rights. Knowing that they are UNIVERSAL (A for all), INHERANT (B for born with them), INALIENABLE (C for cannot be taken away), UNCONDITIONAL (D for you do not have to earn them) and INDIVISIBLE (E for equal importance).
- Ask how you can help and be part of our school community as we work together to achieve Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award.
- Encourage your child to take action in matters that affect them or other children around the world..

The ABCDE of Children's Rights

A – universal

Rights are for **ALL** children.

B – inherent

Rights are there at **BIRTH**. All children are **BORN** with them.

C – inalienable

Rights **CANNOT** be taken away. Every child will always have their rights.

D – Unconditional

Rights **DO NOT** have to be earned. Children's rights are yours – respect them.

E – indivisible

All rights are **EQUALLY** important.