



Denying  
child rights  
is wrong.  
Put it right.

# THE RIGHTS-RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD





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## THE UNCRRC AS A GUIDE TO LIVING

### The vision:

A Rights Respecting School with the values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at its heart.

The outcome is the Rights-Respecting Schools Award.

**unicef**  
UNITED KINGDOM



**RIGHTS  
RESPECTING  
SCHOOLS**



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## 1. WHAT IS A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL LIKE?

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

Where young people learn:

The difference between wants and needs

That **Needs = Rights**

That my rights are also your rights and we have a responsibility to preserve these rights.





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

If youth 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.

**RESPECT.  
NOW.  
ALWAYS.**





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It's a school where...

Young people become active global citizens by learning:

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





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## And where young people gain a powerful voice

Young people to have a say in how things in school are run. This can be done through councils and committees. Real change can be made if pupils make their voices heard.





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To become a RRS:

- We need to develop a rights-respecting ethos
- Give young people the lead in creating rights-respecting classrooms
- Equip young people to take a lead through rights-respecting training
- Allow students and adults to work in partnership





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There are four overarching standards:

### **Standard A: Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management**

The best interests of the child are a top priority in all actions. Leaders are committed to placing the values and principles of the UNCRC at the heart of all policies and practice.

### **Standard B: The whole school community learns about the UNCRC.**

The Convention is made known to children and adults. Young people and adults use this shared understanding to work for global justice and sustainable living.



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## **Standard C: The school has a rights-respecting ethos.**

Young people and adults work together to develop and maintain a rights-respecting school community, based on the UNCRC, in all areas and in all aspects of school life.

## **Standard D: Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners.**

Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously. Young people play an active role in their own learning and speak and act for the rights of all to be respected locally and globally.



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## ASSESSMENT FOR THE AWARD

- When a school has conducted a self-evaluation of its progress using the standards, it invites an Education Officer to conduct an external assessment.
- Following the external assessment, a judgement is made and a verbal and then a written report is given.



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

- Improvements in pupils' well-being: it should remove the reasons for bullying
- Gives greater organisation to school improvement strategies, enhance positive behaviour and self-esteem; reduce classroom aggression; empowers young people to participate effectively
- Sense of school community is formed through shared values