



Parkhill Junior School: A Rights Respecting School

WHAT IS A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL?



Together, young people and the school community learn about children's rights, putting them into practice every day. The award is not just about what children do but also, importantly, what adults do. In Rights Respecting Schools, children's rights are promoted and realised, with adults and children working towards this goal together.

Impact of being a Rights Respecting School

There are four key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting School; wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem. The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes, goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the community.

Children are healthier and happier

By promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination, children's self-esteem and wellbeing is boosted and they are less likely to suffer from stress. A child who understands their rights understands how they and others should be treated and their sense of self-worth is strengthened.

Children feel Safe

The Rights Respecting Schools Award gives children a powerful language to use to express themselves and to challenge the way they are treated. They are also able to challenge injustices for other children. Children and young people are empowered to access information that enables them to make informed decisions about their learning, health and wellbeing.

Children have better relationships

Both with their teachers and their peers, based on mutual respect and the value of everyone's opinion. In a Rights Respecting school, children are treated as equals by their fellow pupils and by the adults in the school. Children and young people are involved in how the Award is implemented in the school but are also involved in strategic decision-making; in decisions about their learning and in views about their wellbeing.

Children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

This builds their confidence to make informed decisions. They have a moral framework, based on equality and respect for all that lasts a lifetime, as they grow into engaged, responsible members of society. Children and adults develop an ethos and language of rights and respect around the school. Rights and principles of the Convention are used to put moral situations into perspective and consider rights-respecting solutions – this all has a huge impact on relationships and wellbeing. Children and young people get very involved in raising awareness about social justice issues, both at home and abroad. They become ambassadors for rights and take part in campaigns and activities to help to bring about change.



Science Ambassadors



Art Ambassadors



MFL Ambassadors



Sports Ambassadors



Walk Wardens



Junior Health and Safety Officers

Role of the Rights Respecting Ambassadors



Each week the Rights Respecting Ambassadors work with Mrs Simms to ensure that the whole school community knows about the rights that every child is born with and to ensure that these rights are being respected. They lead assemblies, organise events, monitor rights respecting values in their classrooms and announce the weekly article.

We actively promote our Rights Respecting ethos through the language we use in the classroom and around the school.

By exploring new ideas and trying new strategies you have taken risks in your learning.

You were respecting everyone's right to play when you let people join in your game.

When you put your litter in the bin, you respected everyone's right to a clean environment.

You showed resilience in your learning when you used different strategies to solve the challenging problem.

By going back and checking your writing you are reflecting on your learning.

When you lined up quietly, you showed that you were ready to learn.

By listening carefully, you have respected everyone's right to have their say and be taken seriously.

What is a class charter/ agreement?



Rights	Children's responsibilities	Adults' responsibilities
All children have the right to an education (Article 28).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try our best and make sure we do not waste our time in school or stop others from learning. Concentrate, listen to, and look at, the person speaking to us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach us and help us learn new things that are interesting and exciting. Find out how we learn best.
All children have the right to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment. (Article 24).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose to eat healthily. Take care not to drop litter or food and pick things up if we do. Tidy our things away. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide healthy meal options. Keep the school clean. Set a good example.
All children have the right to use their talents to the full. They should also learn to respect other people and their cultures (Article 29).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise our talents so that we can improve. Be respectful to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach us how to be respectful. Find out what we are good at and help us to improve. Praise and encourage our talents.
Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account (Article 12).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider how our opinions will affect others. Listen to other people's opinions. Speak to others respectfully. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to us and act on what we say where possible. Help us to see when our opinions might stop us being safe.
Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes (Article 16).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure we do not spread gossip. Treat people with respect. Only look at other people's belongings if invited. Respect people's privacy in the toilets. Give people 'space' if they need it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask before looking in children's trays. Remind children to keep their passwords and personal information safe.
All children have the right to be safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to warnings. Be careful crossing the road to the field. Walk sensibly around the school. Avoid playing dangerous games. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look after us. Remind us about things that might be dangerous. Remind us how we should behave in school when we forget.

A charter / agreement for a rights respecting classroom (or any other part of the school) sets out:

- * Those rights selected from the CRC which are deemed to be most relevant. The rights should be worded in language that is meaningful to the children.
- * Beside each right, the actions agreed between all children and adults to ensure that the rights can be realised and enjoyed by everyone
- * Who agreed to the charter. This is often done by all signing it.

What is agreed is then set out in a way that can be easily seen around the room/area. Charters/agreements can be developed with the active participation of children from infant onwards. They act as a reminder of the shared values and principles based on the CRC and are applicable to all. The aim is to make the Convention a real and meaningful guide to action on a day-to-day basis. This means that both the initial process of creating the charter/agreement and its subsequent use should be inclusive and unite the children and young people and adults in the class. The charter / agreement develops a sense of ownership of the classroom and learning. Once developed it becomes a point of reference for the class.

"The Award improves the lives of children in the UK by taking a whole school approach to putting children's rights at the heart of school policy and practice."

Unicef's 2018 survey results showed that child rights education plays a key role in developing children and young people as active, engaged local and global citizens. Children in Rights Respecting Schools feel safe in school, respected by and enjoy supportive relationships with the adults who care for them and engaged with their local community, their education and the global agenda.



A Rights Respecting School is a place where we can all feel confident with ourselves and it encourages us to use our voice. It has helped me build my confidence. It has helped me raise awareness of injustice in the world.

A PUPIL FROM A RIGHTS RESPECTING PRIMARY SCHOOL



Rights are the context for all our work – they provide a framework for the whole jigsaw.

PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER

