

UNICEF RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Celebrating Our Silver Award: Park Road is a UNICEF Rights-Respecting School



Welcome to Park Road's Rights Respecting School Page

We are proud to announce that **Park Road** has received the **Silver: Rights Aware Award** as part of our ongoing journey as a **Rights Respecting School** with **UNICEF UK**! This award is a testament to our commitment to fostering a culture of respect and understanding among our whole school community. This achievement reflects our dedication to incorporating the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the heart of our school's planning, policies, practices and values.

The Silver Rights Respecting School Award recognises our efforts in teaching children about their rights and responsibilities, as outlined by UNICEF. Through engaging and age-appropriate activities, we empower our pupils with the knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC, promoting a sense of social responsibility and global citizenship.

Click this link to see a summary of the UNCRC.

[UNCRC summary-1](#)

We learn about rights, through rights and for rights.

The **Rights Respecting Schools Award** recognises schools that place the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of their ethos, culture and daily life. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. This latest milestone reflects the dedication of our whole school community - pupils, staff, governors and families alike.

To achieve **Silver**, the school was required to demonstrate progress across three strands: **teaching and learning *about* rights, teaching and learning *through* rights, and teaching and learning *for* rights**. The assessor confirmed that all three have been achieved, finding that knowledge of children's rights is becoming firmly embedded across the school, that decisions affecting children are increasingly rooted in rights, and that our pupils are being empowered to exercise their own rights and champion the rights of others, both locally and globally.

During the accreditation visit, the assessor spoke with 11 pupils, along with teachers, our teaching and learning governor and one parent.

Pupils of all ages confidently demonstrated their knowledge of the CRC, discussing specific articles and key concepts with assurance and showing real awareness of the barriers some children face in accessing their rights, as well as touching on the many charitable activities they have undertaken to help contribute towards addressing these challenges.

We also say a big thanks to our teaching and learning governor and parents who made some very valuable comments about our wonderful work on children's rights and our vision as a school moving forward with the 'Rights Respecting' framework in the future.

Our thanks also go to our Rights Ambassadors, School Council, Peer Mediators and every pupil, member of staff and parents who have all contributed to this fantastic achievement.

Our Rights Journey continues - Gold status is now firmly in our sights!

We will now begin our journey towards the **Gold: Rights Respecting** Award, which will be a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to embedding the principles of the UNCRC further into our curriculum and school ethos. We aim to continue to create an environment where every child's voice is heard, respected, and valued, fostering a sense of inclusivity and equality.

At Park Road, we believe in nurturing compassionate and informed young minds who recognise the significance of human rights. Our dedication to the Rights Respecting School initiative aligns with our goal to provide a holistic education that not only focuses on academic achievement but also emphasises the importance of empathy, respect, and understanding.

We invite our whole school community to join us on this empowering journey as we work towards the Gold Rights Respecting School Award. Together, we can create an environment where the rights of every child are championed, and the principles of the UNCRC become an integral part of our school's identity.

What is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)?

In 1989, governments around the globe adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which recognised that all children have the right to be protected and to have their voices heard.

What are children's rights?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is the basis of all of Unicef's work. It is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.

The convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status.

What is a Rights Respecting School?

A rights-respecting school is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. Young people and the school community learn about children's rights by putting them into practice every day.

We feel it is important that when children learn about their rights it is important that deeper connections are also made in their understanding about the nature of rights so they are taught the ABCDE of their rights.

A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earned. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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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 whole community.

- children are happier and healthier
- children feel safe
- children have better relationships
- children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

UNICEF UK RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT FOUR EVIDENCE-BASED STANDARDS.

- Rights-respecting values underpin leadership and management.
- The whole school community learns about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The school has a rights-respecting ethos.
- Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners.

What is the pupils' role in the award?

Over the year, our Rights Respecting Ambassadors Steering Group, have displayed their rights in appropriate places around the school to help to develop their understanding of what the articles mean. They are in charge (with the support of their class teacher) of ensuring that their classroom environment supports the different Rights. In essence, their role is to ensure that the whole school is aware of the Rights Respecting Schools Award, to provide a link between the children, all staff members, the Governors and the wider community and to plan and deliver events to help our children become Rights Respecting Global Citizens.

Rights Vocabulary

Here are some of the key words we use to help learn about, through and for rights.

- **Duty Bearers:** These are all the people whose responsibility it is to make sure children's rights are respected. This starts with the government but also includes parents and all school staff.
- **Equity:** The concept that every child deserves to have the support they need to succeed and that this support will look different for each child.
- **Dignity:** The way in which all children should be treated at all times.

What does RRS look like at Park Road?

As well as learning about children's rights, through school and class assemblies and Rights Respecting days, being a Rights Respecting School shapes our behaviour management. Every class draws up a class charter based on agreed rights, for example Article 12, "respect for the views of the child", and then lists how adults and children will be able to respect, protect and promote this right.

Our Rights Respecting Steering Group also known as the RRS Ambassadors are children who work to ensure that all members of our school community are made aware of the rights afforded to them through the UNCRC. They also ensure that they model the best way to respect the rights of others, making our school a happier, safer and more respectful place to learn and work. They attend fortnightly meetings with the RRS Lead to discuss initiatives, ideas and projects and to help support the community in Rights Respecting work. They also discuss school issues and to decide, by vote on the topic for the next class meeting. In this way, we are able to include children's views in our decision-making processes, in accordance with Article 12 of the UNCRC and children have had a say in important decisions involving our school.

How can parents and carers help their child to know their rights?

- Spend time talking about the articles at home.
- Look at the children's (Newsround), local and worldwide news. These will often link with rights learning.
- Discuss learning about rights and encourage pupils to relate rights to current issues.
- Join in with local charity events and school charity days.

- Take action for positive change in their local community e.g. litter pick, recycle; plastic, metal, clothing, leafleting to raise awareness.

To find out more visit this website: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

Please support us on our continued RRSA journey!

