



# Rights Respecting Schools at Pencaitland Primary School

## What is a Rights Respecting School?

UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools initiative helps a school community to use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to help develop a clear set of values that are actively upheld by pupils.

It is a series of three levels of award that we are working towards achieving:

Bronze: Rights Committed (achieved in November 2018)

Silver: Rights Aware

Gold: Rights Respecting.

## What are children's Rights?

All children are entitled to basic human rights. They have 42 rights that enable them to be kept safe and protected as well as ensuring they have every opportunity they are entitled to. The UNCRC sets out the rights that must be realised for children to develop to their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. These rights are not something that children need to earn or that adults and governments can take away as a punishment. They contain the basic protection and support that all children are entitled to. All children have the same rights, regardless of their background or where they live.

## Why become a Rights Respecting School?

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

In a Rights Respecting School, relationships are based on mutual respect; everyone is equal and everyone's opinion is valued. Relationships are better between pupils and their peers and between pupils and adults.

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

A child who has knowledge and understanding of their rights also knows how they should be treated and how they shouldn't be treated. This means they have a stronger sense of self-worth. By actively promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination, the heart of the UNCRC, children's self-esteem and wellbeing is strengthened.

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

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

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

Throughout the reward journey, children and young people are involved in decisions being made about their learning and their well-being. This will build their confidence in making informed decisions.

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

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

**There are so many great reasons for us to become a Rights Respecting School!**

### **What do we need to do to become a Rights Respecting School?**

We need to show a commitment of placing the rights of the child at the centre of everything that we do throughout the school and all areas of school life.

Together, adults, children and the school community learn about children's rights and put them into practice every day.

The journey to receiving the Gold award can take three to four years.

UNICEF UK will be working with us as we work towards becoming Rights Respecting.

When we are ready for the next award UNICEF UK will come to assess the school.

### **What's Next?**

We have set up a Primary 6 and 7 focus group who have been introducing the programme to classes and are planning activities for all pupils related to the 42 articles.

We will send out regular updates about our progress towards the silver award.

Further information can be found on UNICEF UK's website:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/>