

WHY SHOULD WE LEARN ABOUT RIGHTS?

Learning about the rights of ALL children and helping to ensure these rights are met, form the core values of our school. Our teaching is based on the **UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD** and the work carried out by **UNICEF**.

WHAT IS UNICEF?

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights.

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD?

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 enjoy their rights. There are 4 articles in the Convention that are seen as special. They are known as the 'General Principles' and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

- **ARTICLE 2** Non-discrimination
- **ARTICLE 3** Best interest of the child
- **ARTICLE 6** Right to life, survival and development
- **ARTICLE 12** Right to be heard

Every child should know what the **UNCRC** is and that it is part of international law which the UK Government must follow.

ARTICLE 42 (knowledge of rights) - Governments must make the Convention known to all children and adults.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN'S RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS?

Children at Upton St James learn about children in the UK and other parts of the world whose rights may not be respected. This develops a stronger sense of empathy and an awareness of how their actions can impact on others.

AS GROWN UPS WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED.

We need to understand that these rights are unconditional; they cannot be taken away, earned or used as a reward. No right is more important than another. Rights may be:

Limited - e.g. if there is a danger in the playground a child's right to play may be limited until the danger has passed.

Qualified - e.g. everyone has a right to an opinion but not in a way that denies another person's rights or discriminates against them.

Prioritised - e.g. a child's right to receive care for an injury is prioritised above their right to play.



Red Nose Day March 2019 - The children not only had fun dressing up and holding a cake sale, but also learnt about Comic Relief and its aim to create a just world free from poverty. They looked at the challenges facing young people in the UK and around the world, and discussed if rights were being respected.

The **RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD** helps our children to grow into confident, caring and responsible young people, both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights, the children also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others.

A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL ENSURES THAT CHILDREN:

- Gain self-esteem by learning about their rights
- Learn to respect each other's rights
- Become active global citizens
- Have a powerful voice
- Develop critical thinking skills and become informed decision makers

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING ABOUT THE CONVENTION IN SCHOOL?

As with most things, the learning of rights, respect and responsibility begins at home. Children often learn from what they see and hear. By showing an interest and becoming involved in your child's learning, you help your child learn the importance of giving and sharing with others.

- Take time to ask your child what they have learned recently regarding children's rights
- Discuss the ideas your child is learning in class and try to think of examples of rights being respected or denied
- Ask your child's opinion on children's rights
- Read the UNCRC!

We are taking part in the Big Battery Hunt, this is a challenge to encourage recycling (UNCRC Article 29- Education must develop children's respect for the environment). Every recycled battery helps the planet!



Upton St James School Council, supported by staff and Governors, continue to help the school on its Rights Respecting journey.

A child in year 5 said, "Being a Rights Respecting School sets a good example to all children... Because the children in the school respect rights I feel it is a safe place to be... In class we can make decisions on our learning and it is not just up to the teachers."

For further information a summary of the [United Nations Convention on The Rights of The Child](#) can be found in the school foyer, or go to www.unicef.org.uk

If you would like to help with our RRSA journey we would love to hear from you!



Upton St James CE Primary School

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

Information leaflet for parents and carers



UPTON ST JAMES is very proud to be a *GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL*