



# Being a Rights Respecting School

UNICEF RRSA



## **Why are children learning about their rights in school and what are 'rights'?**

In signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) all Governments have a responsibility to make both children and adults aware of these rights. Schools are the best place to reach the majority of children.

Rights are not the same as 'wants'. Rights are the basic human needs and values that apply or should apply to everyone, for example:

The right to clean water

The right to an education

The right to nutritious food

The right to be heard

The right to express an opinion

The right to shelter

The UNICEF website outlines the articles in more detail and can be found at:

[www.rrsa.unicef.org.uk](http://www.rrsa.unicef.org.uk)

How do these rights fit into teaching the curriculum?

The teaching of links in to many subject areas, including:

English, History, Geography, R.E, Science and PSHE. All our teaching and support staff have received training on how to incorporate rights based lessons into their planning.

## **UNICEF Findings:**

UNICEF has shown that when children are taught about their rights under the CRC, they are more respectful of the rights of others.

Children who have learnt about their rights show:

A better understanding of what it means to have rights

Improved behaviour and attendance

Better relationships with their class

## **What key vocabulary helps children understand about rights and what it means to be rights-respecting?**

Children are taught 5 key words that will help them develop a sound understanding of rights and what it means to be rights-respecting. These are the 2 U's and the 3 I's:

**Inherent** – Rights are inherent meaning they are yours because you are born a human.

**Indivisible** – Rights are indivisible meaning no right is more important than another one. They are equal and linked.

**Inalienable** – Rights are inalienable meaning you cannot give them away or sell them and no one can take them away from you.

**Universal** – Rights are universal meaning they are for all children (under 18), everywhere, all the time.

**Unconditional** – Rights are unconditional meaning they are not a reward and not dependent on a responsibility or performing an action to get them.

## **What can adults do to help children realise their rights?**

All adults (parents, teachers or the government) are known as Duty Bearers. It is our responsibility to make children aware of their rights and to act if their rights are not being met.