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**Rights Respecting School Policy**

**Garnetbank Primary School was awarded the Recognition of**

**Commitment from UNICEF and the Rights Respecting Schools Awarding body in June 2015.**

**We are currently working towards Level 1 of the Rights Respecting School Award.**

**As a Rights Respecting School, our philosophy is underpinned by the values and principles of the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).**

**UNICEF** is the world’s leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting **the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**. These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

The ‘Rights Respecting School’ award (RRSA) will help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. By learning about their rights our pupils, your children, also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others.

**UNCRC**

The Convention sets out the rights of children in 54 Articles and two optional Protocols. These basic rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation.

The UNCRC is underpinned by four principles:

1. Non-discrimination
2. Commitment to the best interests of the child
3. The right to life, survival and development
4. Respect for the views of the child
* Rights are universal and cannot be taken away.
* The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with adults.
* All rights are equally important.

**Rights Respecting Values Underpin Leadership and Management**

* Development as a rights respecting school is an integral part of strategic planning.
* All decisions are taken in the best interests of children.
* As school policies are reviewed, links with the values and principles of the UNCRC are made explicit.
* Refresher training takes place annually for all staff to ensure that knowledge and understanding remains relevant.

**The Whole School Community Learns about the UNCRC**

* Every class learns about the UNCRC, and view different areas of learning from a rights’ perspective.
* Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC.
* All members of the community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children’s rights.
* Pupils. Staff, Parents and the wider community are included in our work as a Rights Respecting School.

**The School has a Rights Respecting Ethos**

Garnetbank Primary School pupils are encouraged to reflect on how their behaviour and actions affect those around them, which allows us to build and maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all, both in the classroom and around the school site.

This session, as we progress through Level 1 of the RRSA our school rules and values are being re-written to form charters, which outline expectations in the classroom.

In the spirit of upholding children’s rights and encouraging a strong pupil voice these new charters will be created by pupils with the support of their class teachers.

**Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners**

* Pupils’ opinions and thoughts are sought, encouraged and respected in all aspects of the school’s work.
* Pupil Leadership is an integral part of the school’s approach. Children are given opportunities to lead aspects of school life through a range of groups including: Pupil Council, Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group, Health Group, Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs), Eco Committee and Playground Buddies.
* Pupils are encouraged to identify themselves as Global Citizens and given opportunities to develop their knowledge and awareness of how they can have a positive impact on the world, now and in the future.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

The responsibility for Garnetbank Primary being a rights respecting school lies with every member of the community. The main responsibility rests with adults.