

# The Rights Times



Hello, we are some of the Rights Respecting Champions and this is our very first edition of the Rights Respecting Champions Newspaper, 'The Rights Times'. Mrs. Fish told us that, after the governor survey, some parents would like more information about the Rights Respecting School Award so read on to find out more.

# What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award?

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports schools across the UK to embed children's human rights into their ethos and culture. The award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children and young people realise their potential.

The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The initiative started in 2006 and schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and well-being, leading to better learning and behaviour, improved academic standards and less bullying.

## What does the Award involve?

Schools involved in the Rights Respecting Schools Award work towards recognition that they have embedded children and young people's rights in their school's practice and ethos. Schools are required to implement four evidence-based standards that cover the leadership of the school, knowledge and understanding of children's rights, ethos and relationships and the empowerment of children and young people.

There are three levels to the Award:

- Recognition of Commitment (ROC)
- Level 1
- Level 2

Our school has already achieved a Recognition of Commitment from Unicef and we are now working towards Level 1. In fact, Mr. Harris from Unicef is visiting the school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June and we hope he will be impressed with all of the things we have been doing.

If you would like to find out more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) or the Rights Respecting Schools award, visit our school website or the Unicef website at [www.unicef.org.uk](http://www.unicef.org.uk)

# Owlsmoor School's journey

Since we began our journey on the Rights Respecting Schools Award, loads of brilliant things have happened in our school.

1. All the children and adults in the school know lots more about their rights and the UNCRC.
2. We have Rights Respecting Champions who meet every week with Mrs. Fish to find out more about the Convention on Children's Rights and how we can make sure everybody linked to our school knows about it.
3. We have a 'Green Team' because the award makes us think about being Global Citizens and how we can save energy, recycle, save water and make less pollution.
4. We have Class Charters in every classroom and our teachers talk to us about our rights.
5. Every week we have assemblies where we can find out about children's rights and being good global citizens.
6. We have a Playground Charter so we can all remember how our rights help us to have good playtimes and we have Play Leaders and Playground Pals to make sure everybody has someone to play with.
7. We have a new sensory garden and children in the school gave in their designs so Mr. Buss knew what we would like.
8. We have information about our rights on our school website and we have displays and signs all around the school.



# 'Rights Respecting Champions '

By Lola

In our RRS meetings we discuss ways to ensure the children in our school have their rights maintained. When we have an idea, we talk about it with Mrs. Fish who then speaks to Mrs. Cole and the governors. For example, quite recently Playground Charters were installed in our middle playground and ball playground. We decided the words to go on the charter and we think they help remind the adults and children about our right to play.

# 'Around the school'

By Rachel

Want to know where you can find out more about our rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)?

Then take a look around the school:

- Playground Charters - in the ball playground and middle playground
- Class Charters - can be found in every class
- 'Our Rights' - display board in the hall
- 'We are Global Citizens' - display board in the hall
- UNCRC articles - on small signs and notices all around the school



Just for fun - By Joey

How many words can you make out of the word

# 'Convention' ?