



HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL



Our Rights Respecting Journey





About the Rights Respecting School Award

The Rights Respecting Schools Award puts children's rights at the heart of schools in the UK.

Unicef works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a guide, Unicef are working with more UK schools than almost any other organisation. The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond.

There are 3 levels to the award - Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Heronbridge has achieved 'Gold. This means that:



- We have embedded the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in our policy, practice and culture



- We are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community

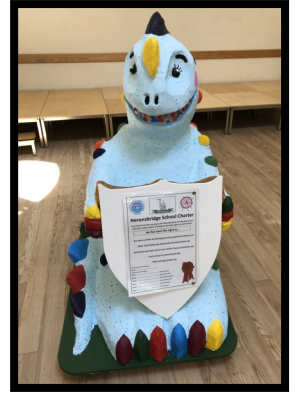
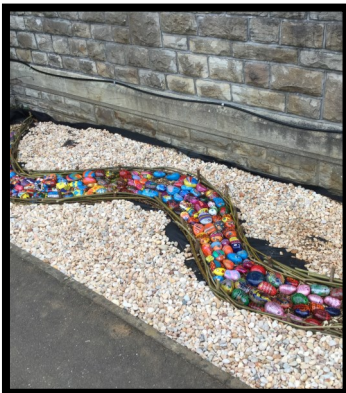


- We are beginning to see the positive impact on young people, staff and on our ethos, practice and environment

- Our young people are beginning to see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and advocates for fairness and the children's rights, both locally and globally

What are we doing to promote a Rights Respecting Environment?

- Assemblies about children's rights that are linked to the articles.
- Children's rights are displayed around school to help with understanding of the articles.
- Classroom charters have been agreed, designed by the school council and are in place around the school.
- Our Rights Respecting mascot, designed by one of our pupils has been created as a 3D model.
- We have a Rights Respecting Week every year in November so we can teach new pupils and staff about its importance.
- We show respect to our environment so that others in the future may have their rights.
- All staff have had training on becoming a RRS from UNICEF.
- We had our visit from unicef in February 2020 and guess what we achieved 'GOLD'-hooray.



What is the UNCRC?



UNCRC stands for 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child'. It's a list of children's rights that all children and young people, everywhere in the world have, no matter who they are, where they live or what they believe in.

It has 54 articles in total. There are 42 rights are for children and young people. The others are about how governments and adults should work together to make sure children and young people can access their rights.

Children's rights are all the things that children and young people need to make sure that they are safe, have the things they need to survive and develop, and have a say in decisions that affect their lives.



In 2011 Wales became the first country in the UK to make the UNCRC part of its domestic law.



Every year, the School Ambassadors for the Rights of the Child, meet with The Children's Commissioner for Wales (Sally Holland), and promote her agendas within the school. This year we have been working alongside Sally to develop lesson plans and symbols appropriate to ALN learners across the country.



We ALL have the right to...

Héronsbridge School Charter

The School Council has voted upon the following articles as being important to school life. Article 2 states, "All children have these rights no matter what!"



◆ Say what we think should happen & be listened to (Article 12)

◆ Meet with friends & join groups & clubs (Article 15)



◆ Good food & water & to see a doctor if we are ill (Article 24)

◆ Learn and go to school (Article 28)



◆ Relax and play (Article 31)



Head teacher:

Mr J Evans

School Council Committee:

School Council





What is a Rights Respecting School?

There are 4 key areas at a Rights Respecting school; **wellbeing**, **participation**, **relationships** and **self-esteem**.

Children are healthier and happier

By promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination, children's self-esteem and wellbeing is boosted and they are less likely to suffer from stress.



Children feel safe

The Rights Respecting Schools Award gives children a powerful language to use to express themselves and to challenge the way they are treated.

Children have better relationships

Both with their teachers and their peers, based on mutual respect and the value of everyone's opinion. In a Rights Respecting school children are treated as equals by their fellow pupils and by the adults in the school.

Children become active and involved in school life and the wider world

This builds their confidence to make informed decisions. They have a moral framework, based on equality and respect for all that lasts a lifetime, as they grow into engaged, responsible members of society.



Our 3 year journey so far

- We have established a steering group to lead and monitor the progress of the award
- We have carried out a baseline audit taking into account the views of students and adults.
- We have informed parents through a focus group, newsletters and our web page about the UNCRC and the Award. Letters home include an Article or the RRS logo.
- We have Super Ambassadors within our school council working alongside Sally Holland the Children's Commissioner for Wales to develop our Rights approach.
- The Governing Body and School Council, have undertaken learning walks with a focus on our Rights Respecting journey.
- All policies are now linked to the UNCRC and shared with the Governing Body
- We have included the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) in the school's strategic planning
- We are continuing to plan opportunities for pupils to learn about the Convention and its importance to the well-being of children and young people locally and globally.
- Our core values are linked to the Articles as well as the 4 Purposes- the Welsh Government's vision for all children in Wales.



Our Journey has led us to: **GOLD**



Useful Links

UNICEF: Rights Respecting Schools Information

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

UNCRC: Children's Commissioner for Wales

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk>

Rights of the Child in Child Friendly Language

<https://www.unicef.org/rightsite/files/uncrcchildfriendlylanguage.pdf>

Rights of the Child with Widgit Symbols

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/uncrc-childrens-rights/uncrc-symbols-resource/>

Sam's Story Blog

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/our-work/sallys-blog/sams-story/>

