St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Live, Love, Believe

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

Putting children's rights at the heart of school life.

Helping every child to Live, Love, Believe.

WHAT IS A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL?

A Rights Respecting School places the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the centre of its ethos, policies and relationships.

It helps children grow into confident, caring and responsible citizens who understand fairness, respect and global responsibility

At St Mary's, this work strengthens our Catholic mission and supports a nurturing, inclusive environment

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS
unicef UNITED KINGDOM
BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED

WHAT ARE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS?

Rights are basic needs and freedoms that every child is entitled to. They are not the same as wants.

- Children's rights include:
- The right to be safe
- The right to an education
- The right to express views
- The right to play
- The right to be treated fairly
- These rights apply to every child, everywhere.



THE UNCRC & UNICEF'S RRSA

The UNCRC contains 54 articles describing what children need to grow, learn and thrive. It was adopted in 1989 and ratified by the UK in 1991

UNICEF uses the UNCRC to guide the Rights Respecting School Award, which recognises schools that embed children's rights in their ethos, curriculum and relationships.

The RRSA has three strands:

- Strand A — Learning about rights
- Strand B — Learning through rights
- Strand C — Learning for rights

RIGHTS AT ST MARY'S

Children at St Mary's experience rights education through:

- Assemblies exploring UNCRC articles
- Classroom learning linked to PSHE, RE and global citizenship
- Pupil leadership groups promoting fairness and inclusion
- Displays and posters celebrating rights and responsibilities
- A caring ethos where every child is listened to and respected

This helps children feel safe, valued and empowered



HOW PARENTS & CARERS CAN SUPPORT

YOU PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOU CAN SUPPORT BY:

- **TALKING ABOUT RIGHTS AT HOME**
- **MODELLING RESPECT AND FAIRNESS**
- **DISCUSSING WANTS VS NEEDS**
- **ENCOURAGING SMALL RESPONSIBILITIES**
- **WATCHING OR READING NEWS TOGETHER AND SPOTTING WHERE RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED OR CHALLENGED**

FIND OUT MORE

🌐 **WWW.STMARYSPRI.CO.UK**
📞 **01983 562000**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD:

🌐 **WWW.UNICEF.ORG.UK/RRSA**

TOGETHER, WE HELP EVERY CHILD GROW INTO A CONFIDENT, COMPASSIONATE YOUNG PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

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A BETTER LIFE FOR EVERYONE

A summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

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

UNICEF works with families, local communities, partners and governments i re then 190 countries to help every child survive and thrive. The UN Conventio the Rights of the Child guides all our work.

We help build a better world for children. Our focus is children who need th st help. We also help when emergencies, such as earthquakes and wars, affect dren

We receive no funding from the UN budget. Most of our money comes from companies and other bodies. Governments in the countries where UNICEF w also provide money and the people work in partnership with us.

Find out more about UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award at unicef.org.uk/rrs

Teachers can access classroom resources about children's rights at unicef.org.uk/education

Find out about our schools fundraising initiative at dayforchange.org.uk

This is a summary version of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child F text please visit unicef.org.uk/cr

UNICEF Education Order Line on 0844 801 2413 quoting code 32910P.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by the UK in 1991. Article 42 (knowledge of rights)- Governments must make the Convention known to children and adults



Produced in consultation with young people
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A SUMMARY OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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ARTICLE 1 (definition of the child)
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

ARTICLE 2 (non-discrimination)
The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

ARTICLE 3 (best interests of the child)
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

ARTICLE 4 (implementation of the Convention)
Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

ARTICLE 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities)
Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child's increasing capacity to make their own choices.

ARTICLE 6 (life, survival and development)
Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

ARTICLE 7 (birth registration, name, nationality, care)
Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.

ARTICLE 8 (protection and preservation of identity)
Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

ARTICLE 9 (separation from parents)
Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

ARTICLE 10 (family reunification)
Governments must respond quickly and sympathetically if a child or their parents apply to live together in the same country. If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit and keep in contact with both of them.

ARTICLE 11 (abduction and non-return of children)
Governments must do everything they can to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally by their parents or other relatives, or being prevented from returning home.

ARTICLE 12 (respect for the views of the child)
Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

ARTICLE 13 (freedom of expression)
Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

ARTICLE 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)
Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

ARTICLE 15 (freedom of association)
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

ARTICLE 16 (right to privacy)
Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.

ARTICLE 17 (access to information from the media)
Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

ARTICLE 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance)
Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

ARTICLE 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)
Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

ARTICLE 20 (children unable to live with their family)
If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

ARTICLE 21 (adoption)
Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.

ARTICLE 22 (refugee children)
If a child is seeking refuge or has refugee status, governments must provide them with appropriate protection and assistance to help them enjoy all the rights in the Convention. Governments must help refugee children who are separated from their parents to be reunited with them.

ARTICLE 23 (children with a disability)
A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

ARTICLE 24 (health and health services)
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

ARTICLE 25 (review of treatment in care)
If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

ARTICLE 26 (social security)
Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

ARTICLE 27 (adequate standard of living)
Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

ARTICLE 28 (right to education)
Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

ARTICLE 29 (goals of education)
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

ARTICLE 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups)
Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

ARTICLE 31 (leisure, play and culture)
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

ARTICLE 32 (child labour)
Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

ARTICLE 33 (drug abuse)
Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.

ARTICLE 34 (sexual exploitation)
Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

ARTICLE 35 (abduction, sale and trafficking)
Governments must protect children from being abducted, sold or moved illegally to a different place in or outside their country for the purpose of exploitation.

ARTICLE 36 (other forms of exploitation)
Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research.

ARTICLE 37 (inhumane treatment and detention)
Children must not be tortured, sentenced to the death penalty or suffer other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible. They must be treated with respect and care, and be able to keep in contact with their family. Children must not be put in prison with adults.

ARTICLE 38 (war and armed conflicts)
Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.

ARTICLE 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)
Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

ARTICLE 40 (juvenile justice)
A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of their age. Governments must set a minimum age for children to be tried in a criminal court and manage a justice system that enables children who have been in conflict with the law to reintegrate into society.

ARTICLE 41 (respect for higher national standards)
If a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.

ARTICLE 42 (knowledge of rights)
Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

The Convention has 54 articles in total. Articles 43–54 are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights, including:

ARTICLE 45
Unicef can provide expert advice and assistance on children's rights.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS

There are three agreements, called Optional Protocols, that strengthen the Convention and add further unique rights for children. They are optional because governments that ratify the Convention can decide whether or not to sign up to these Optional Protocols. They are: the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on a complaints mechanism for children (called Communications Procedure).

For more information go to unicef.org.uk/crc/op