

1Cavendish Primary School

Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Policy

Cavendish Primary School is currently recognised as a 'Silver' (Rights Aware) UNICEF Rights Respecting School as of 2019 and reaccredited in 2024.

At Cavendish Primary School we prioritise the safety and well-being of the children. It is the belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which will enable them to achieve their full potential. The involvement and use of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in our school means that we are helping to become 'brilliant citizens'.

What is the UNCRC?

A link to the UNCRC can be found here: https://www.unicef.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_summary-1.pdf

The UNCRC is a legally-binding agreement which sets out 54 articles outlining the rights of all children. Children are considered to be anyone under the age of 18. The rights are formed under four main principles: survival, protection, development and participation. These principles can be described as:

- *non-discrimination*
- *commitment to the best interests of the child*
- *a right to life, survival and development*
- *respect for the views of the child*

Terms Associated with UNCRC

- **Rights Holders** - Children are rights holders – the rights belong to them.

- **Duty Bearers** - Duty bearers are people who have children in their care. This is any adult, so in school it includes all staff who work in school.
- **Universal** - Rights are for all children.
- **Inherent** - Children's rights are there from birth.
- **Inalienable** - Children's rights cannot be taken away.
- **Unconditional** - Rights **do not** have to be earned. Children **must not** be given 'responsibilities' which make their rights conditional.
- **Indivisible** - All rights are equally important.

One way to learn these terms with the children is to use the ABCDE of rights as set out by Unicef Rights Respecting Schools (UKS2 children should be encouraged to use the proper terminology):

A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earned. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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The Three Strands of RRS:

1. Learning About Rights

Cavendish Primary School's ethos links well with the values of Rights Respecting Schools. It is important to enable children to use the language of their rights and help them to become aware of their rights. Children must be taught about their rights (Article 42).

All classes have a class charter which is referred to regularly.

Assemblies often have links to the UNCRRC.

2. Learning Through Rights

Children regularly learn about history topics where they can learn through the UNCRC. These can also be linked in assemblies through celebrations and important events.

3. Learning For Rights

Children are taught to be global citizens and think about their impact on a local, national and global scale. This can be explicitly taught through charity events and fundraisers, as well as through topics.

Steering Group

We have an ambassador from each class who join in a steering group with Miss Hopkins. The ambassadors will change yearly to give as many children as possible a chance to represent their class and have their voice heard (Article 12, 13).

What Rights Respecting Schools looks like at Cavendish:

- All members of the staff and the community should model Rights Respecting language
- The environment is safe for all children
- Behaviour issues are resolved with links to the UNCRC
- Links are made during lessons
- Rights are taught about explicitly during assemblies, when developing charters and when taking part in Unicef's OutRight campaign
- Children are encouraged to become active learners
- Pupils are encouraged to become leaders and have their voices heard
- Pupils are encouraged to become global citizens

It is the responsibility of all adults who work at Cavendish and adults in the community to ensure children's rights are being met.