



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



**RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS**

What is UNICEF?

- UNICEF is the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund**.
- UNICEF was created in December 1946 to help children in war-torn Europe, China and the Middle East.
- By 1953, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the needs of children in the developing world.

What is the United Nations?

The **United Nations** is an international organisation founded in 1945 and committed to maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; promoting social progress, better living standards and **human rights**.

What is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**, or **UNCRC**, is the basis of all of UNICEF's work.
- The **UNCRC** sets out the **human rights of every person under the age of 18**. It was adopted by the **UN General Assembly** in 1989 and is the most widely-adopted international human rights treaty in history. **The UK ratified the UNCRC in 1991.**

What makes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so special?

- The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.
- Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status.
- The Convention must be understood as a whole: all rights are linked and no right is more important than another.

To become a 'Rights-Respecting School', we have to display evidence that we have attained all four standards:

1. Leaders and managers make sure rights-respecting values underpin everything we do;
2. The whole-school community learns about the Convention;
3. There is a rights-respecting ethos;
4. Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners.

The award will have a wide array of positive implications for the school, the staff and the pupils, such as:

- Improved self-esteem and wellbeing;
- Improved behaviour and relationships (reduction in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance);
- An even more positive attitude towards diversity.