

Rights Respecting School

Whitehouse Primary School has been awarded the Silver Level Rights Respecting School Award by Unicef UK. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Silver level is given to schools that make excellent progress towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum.

We are delighted with the progress we have made on our Rights Respecting journey so far and have now begun to work towards the Gold Award.

Our Rights Respecting School work is led by a steering group made up of members of our school community. We are hoping to appoint new parent representatives to this committee over the next few weeks. If you would be interested in getting involved, look out for the note which will be sent home in the next few days.

Right of the Month

In order to help our pupils learn more about their rights, each month we choose a 'Right of the Month'. This month we are focusing on Article 1.

**"The Convention applies to all children and young people under the age of 18."
(UNCRC, Article 1)**

Children are 'rights holders'. They hold all the rights listed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

These rights are:

- **Universal** meaning for all children, everywhere, all of the time.
- **Unconditional** meaning they are not a reward and not dependent on a responsibility or performing an action to get them. However, because they are universal and for everyone equally, our actions should respect the rights of others and not deny their rights. This is **rights respecting behaviour and actions**.
- **Inalienable** meaning you cannot give them away or sell them and no one can take them from you.
- **Indivisible** meaning no right is more important than another one. They are a whole package and they are interlinked.
- **Inherent** meaning they are yours because you are born a human.

What are duty bearers?

Duty bearers are the adults who are responsible for ensuring that children receive their rights.

This includes parents and care-givers and the government and those who are employed by the government (teachers, police, healthcare workers etc.).

All adults associated with our school are duty bearers.

In Northern Ireland, we have a Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Commissioner's job is to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people.

Our Commissioner is called Koulla Yiasouma. She has been the Commissioner since March 2015.



You can find out more information on the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) on their website – www.niccy.org



Walk for the World!



On **Friday 5th October** we will hold our annual **Charity Fitness Challenge Day**. The theme for our fitness day is '**Walk for the World**'. Our aim is that each pupil on that day (or during that week) will walk 25,000 steps to represent the 25,000 miles around the world.

We plan to use the money we raise to support a range of charities. Some of the charities will receive ongoing support year by year from our school and others will be a one off donation for this year. The charities have been chosen by the members of our Rights Respecting School Steering Group as they promote children's rights and our Whitehouse Values.

The charities we plan to support on an ongoing basis are:

Charity	Info
Care for Cambodia (Article 28 – The Right to Education)	Sponsor a Teacher In 2014/15 we raised money to build a school in Cambodia. We plan to continue to support this school by sponsoring a teacher. The cost of a teacher is £30 per month. Although this may seem very little it is a reasonable wage for those living in rural Cambodia.
Toilet Twinning (Article 27 – The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living)	Twin Two Toilets We know toilets and good sanitation are important. However, many children in the world live in areas where there is no access to a toilet. We plan to twin all the toilets in our school (at the rate of 2 per years) with toilets in other countries, to help improve the standard of living of the poorest people in our world.
Sponsor a Granny - 'Penny Appeal'	A School Granny We are very proud of our grandparents' club. We have really enjoyed getting to know our Whitehouse Primary School grannies over the last few years. We thought it would be nice if we could look after a granny in another country too!
Water Aid (Article 24 – The Right to Clean Water)	Water Tank for a School Water Aid is a charity that works to provide access to clean drinking water for people across the world. We hope to raise enough money to purchase a water tank for a school each year. This will ensure that schools around the world have access to clean, safe drinking water.

The charities we plan to support this year are:

	Info
Local Charity	Newtownabbey Methodist Mission Newtownabbey Methodist Mission support local families in need in a variety of ways.
Children's Rights Charity	Unicef Unicef makes sure more of the world's children are fed, vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. They have done more to influence laws, policies and customs to help protect children than any other charity. They get things done! And they're not going to stop until the world is a safe place for all our children.
Environmental Charity	World Wildlife Fund WWF's work has evolved from saving species and landscapes to addressing the larger global threats and forces that impact them. Their new strategy puts people at the centre and organizes their work around six key areas: forests, marine, freshwater, wildlife, food and climate. People are at the centre of their work because together we can change the trajectory of the threats to nature, and help ensure nature's ability to provide—for the sake of every living thing, including ourselves.

We hope that your children will enjoy this event and that you can use it, not only as an opportunity to support some important causes, but also to talk to your children about how they can help ensure other children around the world receive their rights.

Thank you for your support!