



Welcome to our 'Rights Respecting Schools Award' Journey

We are Silver: Rights Aware

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is an accreditation by Unicef UK for schools who, through the RRSA programme, show a commitment that promotes and realises children's rights and encourages adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others within the school community and also within the local and global community.

The importance of learning about, knowing and being able to articulate one's rights, especially for children and young people with a visual impairment as is the case for the all the children at Priestley Smith Specialist School, can help our children to develop more confidence and independence in being able to advocate for themselves, both during their school career and in their future lives.

The Award is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which sets out the rights for every person under the age of 18. The Convention contains 54 Articles which relate to all aspects of the life of a child; every child everywhere regardless of gender, ethnicity, language, religion, abilities or any other factor is entitled to the rights contained in these articles. The rights are all linked and are equally as important as each other; therefore no right has more importance than another right.

Through the understanding of these rights whole school community develops a deeper respect for each other within a positive environment which enables children to develop their talents and abilities. Article 29 – the goals of education – supports 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.

Some of the rights have more relevance to our setting however, and Article 23 of the UNCRC underpins all our work with the children and young people who attend Priestley Smith Specialist School:

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.

There are three levels to the Rights Respecting Schools Award:

- Bronze: Rights Committed
- Silver: Rights Aware
- Gold: Rights Respecting

In order for a school to be accredited, it must evidence that it has reached the three RRSA Strands. These Strands and other guidance are used by schools to plan and monitor progress. The three RRSA Strands are:

- Strand A: Teaching and learning about rights
- Strand B: Teaching and learning through rights – ethos and relationships
- Strand C: Teaching and learning for rights – participation, empowerment and action

Our RRSA Journey

Our RRSA journey began in the autumn of 2017. During the summer holidays of 2018, we were awarded the first stage of the Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), **Bronze: Rights Committed**.



We then worked hard towards our **Silver: Rights Aware**, which we achieved in December 2020. This was a little later in 2020 than we had planned due to Covid.

We have since been working towards **Gold: Rights Respecting**, which we hope to achieve early 2024.

If you would like to know any more about our RRSA Journey, please contact me – Miss Bradley – the RRSA Lead Teacher at the school. There are also some links below, which you may find helpful.

Best wishes

Suzanne E Bradley
RRSA Lead Teacher

Here are some links that you may find useful about RRSA and the UNCRC:

To know more about the RRSA:

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

To know more about the UNCRC and the Articles:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/introducing-the-crc/>

For a child-friendly version of the UNCRC:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources/teaching-resources/guidance-assemblies-lessons/child-friendly-crc-text-and-icons/>

What is a Rights Respecting School?:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

The Strands of a Rights Respecting School:

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