

Join It All Up



Placing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of your school's core values and ethos provides a coherent framework for other whole-school statutory requirements.



More and more schools are finding that taking the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to the heart of the school ethos provides overarching values, and a global dimension, that make sense and join up your school's development plan.

Articles 1 & 2

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in the Convention, whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment so they will stay healthy.

Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures. Education should prepare children for responsible life in a free society, in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes and friendship among all peoples.



Rights-Respecting School Award

In partnership with education authorities, UNICEF UK is developing the Rights Respecting School Award for schools that take the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to the heart of their school. More and more schools are finding that when everyone in the school, adults and pupils, know and understand children's rights and responsibilities as laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children's behaviour, attitudes and attainment improves and teachers can enjoy teaching.



The UNCRC has been signed by all but two of the world's countries and territories and is a charter of rights and responsibilities that is common to all children. The global dimension to the curriculum comes easily as children automatically link their own experiences to those of children in other parts of the world. Children's rights builds empathy and reduces xenophobia and bullying as children recognise that to have their own rights respected means an obligation to respect the rights of others.

UNICEF UK is promoting Join It All Up - with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to show schools how all the policies and initiatives that they are required to follow and fulfil, including Every Child Matters, can be linked into a values ethos for the school.

To find out more about the Rights Respecting School Award and UNICEF UK's resources to assist teaching about children's rights look at: www.unicef.org.uk/tz. All that a school needs to become a rights-respecting school will be downloadable from this website in 2007.