



Halfway School is  
aiming for UNICEF's  
**Rights Respecting  
School Silver Award!**



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# WHAT IS A RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL?

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- It's a community - involving **all** staff, parents, and governors, where children's **rights** are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.
- Young people and the **school** community learn about children's **rights** by putting them into practice every day.



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# UNCRC

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## The United Nations **‘Convention on the Rights of the Child’.**

This is a document which contains 54 articles, or rights, that **all** children everywhere have.



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# A BIT OF HISTORY....

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- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the UN in 1948.
- It set out, for the first time, fundamental **Human Rights** to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.
- However, the UN wrote the CRC in 1989, it was ratified by the UK in 1991 and came into force 15th January 1992.

Why did the UN write the CRC?



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- Children are humans and they are covered by the Declaration of Human Rights.
  - **So why did the United Nations think that they needed to make the CRC for children 40 years after they had made the Declaration of Human Rights?**
  - The following Children's Rights help to answer this question:



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- Article 3 – **All adults** who work with children should do what is best for the child and have a ***responsibility*** to help children learn to exercise their rights.
  - Article 4 – The government has a ***responsibility*** to make sure children's rights are protected.
  - Article 5 – The people children live with have a ***responsibility*** to help their children learn to exercise their rights.



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- The Convention on the Rights of the Child was written for the **adults** who take care of children – **parents, carers, aunts and uncles, grandparents, adult friends of family, teachers, police, shop keepers ...**
  - **ALL** adults who work with and are around children and **The Government are Duty Bearers** – All adults must ensure that children's rights are met, protected, tell children about their Rights and encourage children to stand up for their rights.



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- The CRC was signed by 191 countries.
  - This is the **first time** in the history of the world that so many countries have ever agreed on anything!
  - This means these governments agree that all adults must help their children learn about their Rights and have their Rights met.



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- The rights set out in the Convention give responsibility on **all adults** to ensure that these rights are realised and to model rights-respecting behaviour.
  - This means the government, parents/ carers and all adults in our communities, have this responsibility.
  - **All Adults** in schools are responsible for promoting a rights-respecting environment and for ensuring all their students rights are met.



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# IS THIS JUST ANOTHER INITIATIVE?

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- It is **not** just another initiative; instead it provides an **overarching set of values** that *improve* the climate for learning and within which other initiatives can sit.



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# WHAT IS THE AWARD ABOUT?

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- The Unicef RRSA supports schools across the UK to embed children's human rights in their ethos and culture.
- The award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the **heart** of a school's practice to improve well-being and outcomes for every child and to help **all children** realise their potential.



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# WHAT IS THE AWARD ABOUT?

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The RRSA standards cover four key areas:

- Leading and managing a rights-respecting school;
- Teaching and learning about the Convention;
- Creating and maintaining a rights-respecting ethos which positively affects relationships within the school;
- Empowering children and young people to become active citizens and learners.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTXhfQS9R80>



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# HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT THE SCHOOL?

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- RRSA is not just ‘another award’ - It is a catalyst for further school improvement.
- It builds upon excellent practice and supports our school to move to a Rights Based Approach .
- The whole school community will learn **about** rights ... **through** rights ... and **for** rights.



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# BENEFITS FOR OUR CHILDREN

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- It can improve the our pupils self-esteem and feelings of being valued and listened to.
- It can improve levels of respect for each other leading to better-quality relationships between pupils, between staff and pupils and between staff.
- It gives a sense of security as **rights-respecting language** and **behaviour** is used more consistently throughout the school.



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# THANK YOU

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