

7th February 2020



Dear Parents/carers

I am writing to share some exciting news about Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools journey and provide you with information about it.

UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools work recognises a school's achievement in placing the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of a school's policies, practices and ethos. A rights-respecting school teaches the children about their rights as well as modelling rights and respect in all its relationships between teachers/adults and pupils and between adults and pupils.

UNICEF promotes children's rights by supporting school to ensure that rights are embedded in their ethos and policy and also by providing resources to ensure that all children can learn about their rights in the classroom and beyond.

The CRC consists of 54 articles with the "child" as being defined as every human being below the age of 18. The key provisions include:

- The right to a childhood and protection from harm
- The right to be educated
- The right to be healthy with provision for clean water, nutritious food and medical care
- The right to be heard
- The right to be treated fairly without any discrimination

Why we aspire to become a Rights Respecting School:

West Moors Middle School, with support from the PTFA, has embarked on a journey to developing itself as a Rights Respecting School (RRS). This is integral to our caring school value and ethos, because we want to improve our pupil voice and facilitate greater participation of pupils in the decision making processes of the school. Together with this we wish to improve the quality of relationships and behaviour as well as improve attendance and punctuality. The school feels that RRS would improve pupils' self-esteem and with this they will have a greater engagement in learning and also improve behaviours for learning. This will in turn improve levels of pupil attainment, achievement and develop pupils' levels of emotional intelligence. It is imperative for the school to involve the parents, governors and the whole school community in order for a firm foundation of RRS principles to be built within the school curriculum and moral conduct of all pupils and adults and so presentations will be delivered to all.

Our Rights Respecting Journey:

- Our school aims to explicitly embed the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) in its policy, practice and culture
- We are promoting knowledge and understanding of the Convention throughout our school community
- We are putting into action and developing the plans to achieve our Bronze: Rights Committed award
- We will evaluate our RRS journey to see the positive impact of actions on children and young people, staff, and on the school's ethos, practice and environment
- We aspire for children and young people to see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and advocates for fairness and children's rights, both locally and globally

1. [Teaching and Learning about rights](#): for the whole school community through training, curriculum, assemblies, topics, focus days/weeks, displays
2. [Teaching and Learning through rights](#): by modelling rights respecting language and attitudes, and making strategic decisions that involve students
3. [Being ambassadors for the rights of others](#): developing as rights respecting citizens

IMPACT OF RRS

This will be evaluated in relation to:

- Improved relationships and behaviour.
- Pupils showed improved engagement in learning.
- Improved levels of attendance and punctuality
- Pupils now actively participate in decision-making in the school
- Pupils show a more positive attitude towards diversity in society.
- Pupils are more empowered to respect the environment and rights of others locally, nationally and globally

Mrs Burns, our RRS Lead, will be setting up a RRS working group and meeting with our school's RRS ambassadors that will have representation from all year groups. In addition, we will shortly invite all parents/carers to attend a presentation and learn more about this exciting opportunity. This will be an amazing journey, closely aligned to our school's vision and values, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dr D Craddock

Head teacher