

# St. Catherine's RC Primary School receives the prestigious UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Gold Award



St. Catherine's  
RC Primary School



This award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Headteacher, Miss Chwastek, says, "I am so very proud of our children and our team. Promoting and respecting the rights of children is integral to our mission, 'to be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire.' It is wonderful that this has been recognised through our Rights Respecting Gold Award!"

## What is UNICEF?

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. 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. Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life.



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## **Strengths of the school**

Strengths of the school include:

- Happy, confident children who clearly know that they have rights and are committed to helping to realise these for other children locally and globally.
- A clear strategic approach to embedding children's rights in school life that has been guided by recommendations from the Silver report.
- Courage and confidence in using rights to help frame discussions in response to new national legal requirements within policy developments, for example in RSE.
- A school that has worked hard to develop its approach to inclusion and diversity resulting in pupils who are becoming more articulate about the importance of knowing about children's rights, the difference this makes to their lives and their desire and determination to help realise these rights for others.
- Pupils were keen to share their opinions and were positive that they could make a difference in school and the wider world.

(Taken from St. Catherine's RC Primary School Rights Respecting Gold Report – December 2021)

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## **Highlights from our RRSA Gold Report Strand A: Teaching and learning about rights**

- Children know about their rights and understand the nature of rights, with a child saying, "You get your rights from when you are born, and the rights are meant for all children in the world."
- Children talked about watching Newsround regularly, saying, "We have a right to reliable information."
- Class teachers also consider that, "Children are moving through school not only armed with the knowledge of their rights but able to discuss them in a respectful way."
- Pupils also spoke about the impact that climate change is having on children accessing their rights commenting that, "In Ethiopia some children have to walk at least 10,000 steps a day to get water."
- Children explained how they learn about rights during Worship times, during lessons and, "We are reminded about them every day."
- Children also acknowledged, "Not every child is getting their rights like in Afghanistan where children are being driven away from their homes, so they are not safe and protected and not getting an education."

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## **Highlights from our RRSA Gold Report Strand B Teaching and learning through rights – ethos and relationships**

- All children understand the role of duty bearers with one saying, “The adult duty bearers keep us safe at all times.” Children nominate duty bearers who’ve demonstrated how they have promoted and supported the CRC to receive special weekly certificates. Children spoken with consider that everyone is treated fairly and that this means that, “Different children get different help to make it fair for them.”
- Children were confident that, “If someone’s being mean to you a teacher will always help to sort it out.”
- Definition posters for dignity have been created by children, which the Headteacher explained means, “Children are much more aware and empathetic to each other within different scenarios and situations.”
- All children spoken with said that they feel safe in school and understand this to be a right.
- Children described a range of provision designed to support their social and emotional wellbeing including My Happy Mind sessions. Worry boxes, relaxation and breathing techniques were mentioned as tools for keeping calm.
- One pupil commented, “This may be a Catholic school, but we also have children from different religious groups and everyone respects this.”

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## **Highlights from our RRSA Gold Report Strand C Teaching and learning for rights – participation, empowerment and action**

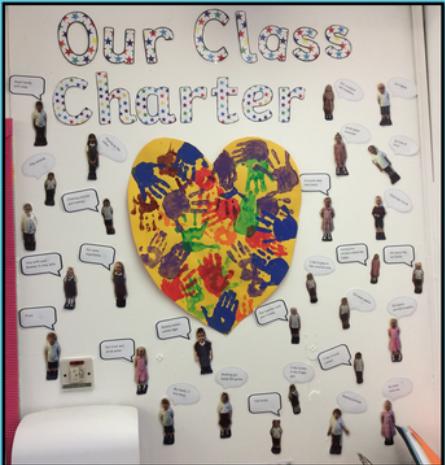
- Children on the School Council described how they wanted to improve the toilet areas, "So we made posters to remind everyone about Article 24 and that we all need to make sure our school is a nice, clean environment." They commented that the toilet areas are now tidier and cleaner.
- An anti-litter campaign involved, "Writing to local councillors to ask for another bin on the other side of the road because we have the right to a clean environment."
- Children talked about COP 26, saying, "We want to take part in climate change campaigns to help make the world a better place."
- A Year 5 child explained, "A global citizen is someone who knows their rights and respects other people's rights and everyone in the world has rights."
- The group also put forward ideas for new equipment for the playground, "So that children would be able to enjoy Article 31 more and be happier."
- Children also explained how, "We suggested some changes to the new PSHE policy like learning about jobs in Y3 instead of Y5 and that's what's happened."

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# Examples of our Rights Respecting Learning at St. Catherine's



St.Catherine's  
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To Whom it May Concern,

There is a big problem I'm writing to talk about. Me and my school have found that along School Lane (especially near newsagents) that there is no bin and an annoying amount of litter is being dropped.

For this reason I would like you to think about putting a bin near some of the newsagents opposite Barlow High School so people have more of a chance of putting their rubbish in the bin.

More than one person agrees this will be a good idea, and are tired of having to pick up rubbish themselves. This rubbish bin would also be a help to the environment, to make sure it does NOT end up in the sea where vulnerable animals could get killed.

I also think that this would be a good idea because it would mean that litter picking groups would have one last place to cover.

Remember: UNCRC Article 24: "We have a right to a clean environment."

Yours Sincerely,

Amy (St Catherines Primary School Councillor)

 Article 19 

We have the right not to be hurt or treated badly

In Class 1 we know our rights!

In our literacy sessions, we explored the text 'For Every Child'

We understand that rights are things that everyone in the world should have to keep them safe and healthy and free. We discussed that we had the rights to be safe, healthy and the right to learn and play. Please read our suggests of what we like to play, how we can be safe and healthy.



St Catherine's children:

**FLUSH the toilet YOU MUST**

Remember article 24 from the UNCRC:  
"We have the right to a clean environment".

Article 17

The Right to reliable information





# Examples of our Rights Respecting Learning at St. Catherine's



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# Examples of our Rights Respecting Learning at St. Catherine's



St. Catherine's  
RC Primary School

We are here to keep you safe.



St. Catherine's  
RC Primary School

We are here to safeguard you.

## What is Safeguarding?

- All the adults around you think that your health, safety and welfare are very important.
- At our school, we respect all children and want to keep you safe and help to protect your rights. This include your right to:
  - Article 19: You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated
  - Article 33: You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs
  - Article 34: You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

## How does St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School work to keep you safe?

- We provide a safe environment for you to learn
- Staff at our school know how to keep you and your friends safe, at home as well as school
- It is important for you to know where to get help if you are worried or unhappy about something.
- We teach you how to recognise risks in different situations and how to protect yourself and stay safe, both in person and online.

## Need to Talk? We will listen!

- Miss Chwastek is our Safeguarding Lead and her main role is to keep our children safe.
- Miss Guigouzi and Mrs McCormick are also part of the Safeguarding team.
- You can speak to any teacher or adult in school, they will always listen to you.
- Tell a friend and then go with your friend to tell an adult.
- You can place a note in the Worry Box outside the hall and an adult will arrange to meet with you.

## Don't keep it a secret if someone is:

- Bullying you;
- Saying funny things to you that you do not like or which upsets you;

- Touching you;
- Trying to give you tablets, cigarettes, drugs or alcohol;
- Hitting you or hurting you;
- Taking your things;
- Sending unkind messages on the internet or to your phone.

## What happens next?

- Sometimes adults may need to speak to one of the safeguarding team.
- Sometimes they may need to contact other people who support you and your family

## You can also contact:

- Child Line are also there to listen to your worries too. You can call them on:  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/kids/>
- You can also use Young Minds Textline by texting 'YM' to 85258



- If you need support online you can report this to CEOP



- The NSPCC can be contacted online or by the phone:



If you or your family are in immediate danger you need to call 999



St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School number: 0161 445 6359

There is lots of information on our school website too:

<https://www.st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk/page/for-children/80007>



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We are so proud of all of the wonderful efforts of our children, staff and whole school community for achieving this prestigious award. Rights education is an integral part of our school curriculum and we are delighted for this to be reflected in our Rights Respecting Gold Award.

## **What do our children say about being a Rights Respecting school?**

"It's really amazing to be a Rights Respecting school because it shows that we are being looked after."

"We know that we stay safe in school."

"We love being educated about Children's Rights."

"We are taught how to respect others that need help."

"We love having a voice and the School Council makes sure that everyone is heard."