

Impact of Rights Respecting Schools Award

St Paul's (Shettleston) Primary School in Glasgow City Council signed up to UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools programme in 2015 to support their aim of embedding a children's human rights approach. In 2021, they were accredited as a Gold Rights Respecting School in recognition of children's rights being at the heart of their whole school policy and practice.

Staff training

All staff in St Paul's participated in training to develop their children's human rights approach and understand their role and obligations in respecting, protecting and fulfilling children's rights. Staff model rights respecting language and put UNCRC knowledge into practice, promoting the rights of children and young people in teaching, as well as planning and policies, to develop children and young people's understanding of their rights and their ability to advocate for and claim their rights. Guidance and e-Learning is available on the Rights Respecting Schools website to support staff training in a children's human rights approach. Online training led by Professional Advisors is available for Rights Respecting Schools leads to attend and then disseminate to colleagues.

Building relationships and children's participation

The development of staff knowledge and understanding of children's rights, and the consequential reflection on children and young people's dignity, led to a whole school shift away from 'managing behaviour' to a focus on building relationships with pupils, and understanding behaviour as a means of communication. Pupils understand that their participation led to changes in behaviour policy and practice, and have been given feedback on how their views were taken into account in the updated approaches. Children's rights charters are now in place in every classroom and provide a framework, developed by pupils and with a focus on the role of the adult, on how to respect each other's rights.

Children are human rights defenders

Embedding children's rights in St Paul's, appropriate to the age and capacity of each pupil, has empowered pupils to stand up for their own rights and the rights of other children and young people. Participation in UNICEF UK's OutRight campaign has increased pupils knowledge of various global issues and developed their capacity to articulate and advocate for children's rights. Pupils now understand their role as human rights defenders and can express their views on matters that affect them. Pupils campaigned for change on the issue of litter in their local area and highlighted how their right to play was being impacted by the public misuse of school pitches. It is through these experiences that pupils have grown in confidence to stand up for their own rights and the rights of other children and young people in their local area.

Children's rights learning outcomes

Rights Respecting Schools has been a tool for St Paul's to ensure that children's rights are embedded in planning, strategies, and reporting, and to support staff to continue to learn and develop their children's human rights approach. They have ensured that children and young people are given feedback on the outcomes of their participation, and supported children and young people as human rights defenders to stand up for their own rights and for the rights of other children and young people.



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