



Mosshead Primary School

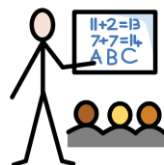
Rights Respecting Schools Policy



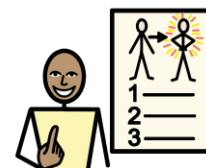
1 Everyone under 18 has these rights



4 The Government should make sure my rights are respected



28 I have the right to an education



29 I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment



42 Everyone should know about the UNCRC

Rationale

The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. At Mosshead, we put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our school's ethos and culture to continually improve wellbeing and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We ensure that children's rights are promoted and realised, with all pupils and staff committed to this goal.

We work hard to ensure that Mosshead is a place where everyone can feel valued and confident in themselves and furthermore ensure that everyone is encouraged to use their voice. Rights are universal and cannot be taken away. The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with adults, who are referred to as the duty bearers.

UNCRC and UNICEF

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. The convention sets out the rights of children in 54 articles. These basic rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation. In March 2021, MSPs voted unanimously for the UNCRC Bill to become law in Scotland, meaning public authorities must comply with the UNCRC.

Aims

In Mosshead Primary we aim to:

- Have a school ethos that puts the wellbeing of children at its centre.
- Equip teachers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver UNCRC learning experiences.
- Provide a wide variety of high quality opportunities for learning about Rights to stimulate an interest and enthusiasm in this topic for all.
- Ensure that the UNCRC is made known to children and adults and use this shared understanding to work for improved child wellbeing, school improvement, global justice and sustainable living.
- Provide opportunities for actions and decisions affecting young people to be rooted in, reviewed and resolved through rights.

- Collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.
- Learn and teach in a way that respects the rights of both learners and educators, and promotes wellbeing for all.
- Empower children to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others locally and globally.
- Ensure that duty bearers are accountable for ensuring that children experience their rights.
- Facilitate leadership opportunities for pupils to lead in rights-based learning.
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders to enhance rights-based learning opportunities and learner experiences.
- Make rights-based learning a part of everyday learning through the use of interdisciplinary contexts.

The Scottish government states that:

'Learning about children's rights can empower children and young people to be active citizens in their school, local community and across the world. Knowing and understanding children's rights is not enough; children and young people also need to be supported to develop skills of talking, listening, empathy, research, debate and negotiation so that they can claim their entitlement to dignity, or share their learning in a rights-based manner with others. All children have the same rights and may need support to develop the skills that will allow them to respect everyone's rights.'

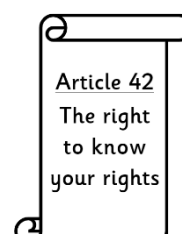
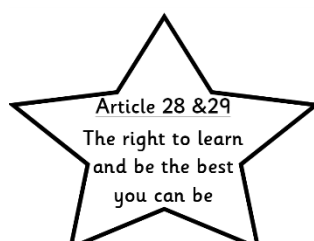
(<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-child/what-is-my-child-entitled-to/children-s-rights>)

Charters

Charters are created at the beginning of each year for the following reasons:

- to support a positive learning environment for children.
- to help to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) clearer to both adults and pupils and how this links to school.
- to establish and build shared values and relationships for creating a rights respecting ethos in the classroom.

A whole school charter is created and displayed in the hall, with a focus on our school articles which have been decided through consultation with all stakeholders (pupils, staff and parents).



March 2023

School Charter



Class charters are created by each individual class at the beginning of each year. These incorporate elements from our whole school charter, but also allow for further adaptation to particular classes and year groups to ensure that the UNCRC is embedded at every stage of the school.



All charters should have:

- Child friendly description of rights (linked to specific articles from the UNCRC).
- Actions for children to respect the rights of others and themselves.
- Actions for adults as Duty Bearers to ensure that rights are being upheld and respected.

Whole school community

- Explicit links are made to our Vision, Values and Aims with the UNCRC, along with links to our school behaviour code.
- All staff wear 'rights lanyards' to act as visuals during learning and teaching, as well as restorative conversations.
- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC.
- Staff planning reflects links to the UNCRC, with links being embedded in year planners as well as individual curricular area planners.
- Conflicts are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems, with reference to UNCRC.

- All members of the community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children's rights, and a 'Let's Focus on Rights' leaflet has been shared with all stakeholders.
- Pupils opinions are sought, encouraged and respected in all areas of the school's work.
- Pupil leadership is an integral part of the school's approach. Children are given opportunities to lead aspects of school life through a wide range of committees and groups.



Mosshead Values

**Together we all learn,
discover, grow and succeed.**

Mosshead Vision



Mosshead Behaviour Code

Pupil Voice

Article 12 of the UNCRC (respect for children's views) is not only a part of our whole-school and class charters, but is supported through all work in the school. Pupils are involved in making decisions at all levels and through this are able to have a positive impact on the way in which we learn in Mosshead. There are a wide range of committees, pupils are involved in self-evaluation and choosing priorities for our School Improvement Plan, and they are given choice in their learning through pupil-enquiry and play approaches. Our Rights Ambassadors shared some of their views:

"It is important to learn because children have the right to know their rights." G, P7

"The rights at Mosshead are universal – they are for everyone." H, P6

"Our charters are important because they remind the children of their rights and what we must do to make sure everyone gets these." E, P5

"The charters educate us in a fun way." Y, P6

"We learn about rights through everything we do – our teachers encourage us to spot links between what we are doing and the articles." E, P7

"We are treated with respect. The teachers use the articles to discuss with us when anyone is misbehaving. No one is picked out by the teachers and made to feel bad about themselves. The adults all wear the rights round their neck to remind them and us to talk about the rights." T, P7

Useful links

- Booklet for parents, carers and family members:
<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/news-and-events/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child-uncrc-booklet-for-parents-carers-and-family-members/>
- Summary of UNCRC articles: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/01/Summary-of-the-UNCRC.pdf>
- UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/about-us-new/>