

## How can parents support their child to learn about the Convention at home?

- Take the time to ask your child what he/she has learned recently regarding children's rights;
- Discuss the ideas learned in class, and try to think of examples from your own experiences, or from the media, of rights being respected or denied;
- Discuss how your child or your family can promote respect for rights, or help those whose rights have been denied;
- Ask your child's opinions on rights;
- Regularly check the school website (<http://www.kerrmackie-primary-school.org.uk>) or our twitter feed @KerrMackieP or @MrsHRCrowther to keep up to date with where we are on our journey towards the Level 1 Award

**Thank you for your support!**

As with most things, the learning of rights, respect and rights respecting behaviour, works best when the school and home work in partnership.

Children often learn what they see and hear. By being involved in your child's learning and showing an interest in what they do, you are helping your children to learn the importance of giving and sharing with others.

If you have any questions please feel free to discuss them with Mrs Crowther or the Rights Respecting Schools Committee.

We hope you have found this leaflet useful.



## A Guide for Parents

### Rights Respecting Schools Award



An approach based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

## **The UN Convention on the Rights of The Child (UNCRC)**

The UNCRC was set up in 1989 by the countries of the UN, and is an agreement by the governments of the world saying what rights all children should have. 192 out of 193 countries have signed the UNCRC and the UK signed it in 1991.

### **Why are children learning about their rights at school?**

In signing the UNCRC all governments have the responsibility to make both children and adults aware of these rights. Schools are the best place to reach the vast majority of children. Unicef uses the UNCRC as a framework for its work for all the world's children and has developed the *Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)*.

### **Does the UNCRC talk about the child's behaviours?**

We want children at Kerr Mackie to learn about their rights and feel empowered throughout their education.

We recognise that rights and rights respecting behaviours are equally balanced and encourage our children to think carefully about their actions in order to develop an awareness of how they affect the rights of others. The aim is to help children achieve their potential and become responsible citizens.

Some examples include:

Children respect the right to clean water by not wasting water;  
Children respect the right to an education by doing their best;  
Children respect the right to be heard by listening to others;  
Children respect the right to nutritious food by not wasting it.

### **How does teaching about children's rights fit in with the curriculum at Kerr Mackie Primary School?**

The teaching of rights lends itself incredibly well to our relevant and vibrant curriculum. Throughout projects pupils are learning more about rights. Article 29 states '*Your education should help you to learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.*' Through PSHC, stories, writing and Project Based Learning, children are discovering more about children's rights.

All teaching staff and support staff, have received training on the UNCRC.

### **Will children take advantage of adults if they are taught about their rights?**

It is made clear that children have rights as expressed in the UNCRC and they share these with all other children in the world. They are also taught that with rights come rights respecting behaviour to respect the rights of others. The

UNCRC recognises the central importance of parents. It says that the government must respect the responsibility of parents in providing appropriate guidance for their children, including how children should exercise their rights.



BECAUSE  
**EVERY CHILD**  
IN THE WORLD  
HAS ONE THING  
IN COMMON.  
**THEIR RIGHTS.**

### **What about children's respect for the rights of others?**

Research has shown that when children are taught in school about their rights and responsibilities under the UNCRC, they are more respecting of the rights of others.

Children who have learnt about their rights show:

- Improved self-esteem and well being
- Improved relationships and behaviour
- Improved engagement in learning
- More involvement in decision making in their school
- More positive attitudes towards diversity in society and reduced prejudice
- Enhanced moral understanding
- A greater understanding of global justice.