



Rights Respecting Policy

June 2020

Review Date June 2022



Article 1 Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Mission Statement

St Benet's RC Primary School aims to develop each child to be part of "a happy and holy place of learning and the centre of a thriving community." As a Rights Respecting School, our pathway to a successful future is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Rationale:

Our UNICEF Rights Respecting School Bronze (Rights Committed) was achieved in March 2018. We then achieved Rights Respecting School Silver (Rights Aware) in December 2018. Acknowledging we have embedded the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within our whole school ethos.

Children and adults work together to recognise and act upon the rights of the child within our school, our local community and the wider world. We believe that by understanding their own rights, children learn to respect and value the rights of others.

At St Benet's we believe that learning should be fun and that by encouraging respect for each other's rights and valuing the opportunities available, we all grow and learn together as a Rights Respecting community.

Aim:

The aim of St Benet's School is to develop pupils as responsible citizens who make positive contributions to enhance the ethos of the school community. We will achieve this by encouraging our pupils to:

- respect the rights of other people
- accept responsibility for their behaviour
- develop their self-esteem and self-worth
- build workable relationships with all other stakeholders
- be aware of their personal safety and the safety of others

This can be achieved by:

- creating a learning environment conducive to the fostering of successful learning
- ensuring all pupils, staff and parents are aware of our "Rights Respecting Policy" and understand how it operates.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- The Convention sets out the rights of children in 54 Articles.
- These basic rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation.
- The UNCRC is underpinned by 4 principles:

1. Non-discrimination
2. Commitment to the best interest of the child
3. The right to life, survival and development
4. Respect for the views of the child

- Rights are universal and cannot be taken away.
- The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with the adults.
- All rights are equally important.

Rights Respecting Values underpin Leadership and Management:

- Development as a rights respecting school is an integral part of strategic planning.
- All decisions are taken in the best interest of children.
- As school policies are reviewed, links with the values and principles of the UNCRC are made explicit.
- Recruitment and induction practises reflect our rights respecting ethos.
- Refresher training takes place annually for all staff to ensure that knowledge and understanding remains relevant.

The Whole School Community Learns about the UNCRC:

- Every year group learns about the UNCRC, and view different areas of learning from a rights perspective.
- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC.
- All members of the community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children's rights.
- Parents, Governors and the wider community are included in our work as a Rights Respecting School.

The School has Rights Respecting Ethos:

- All members of the community model rights respecting values.
- The environment is safe, physically and emotionally.
- Conflicts are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems.

Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners:

- Pupils' opinions and thoughts are sought, encouraged and respected in all aspects 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 range of groups including the School Council, E-Cadets, Mini Police, Mini Vinnies and the Right's Respecting Steering Group.
- Pupils are encouraged to identify themselves as Global Citizens and given opportunities to develop their knowledge and awareness of how they can have a positive impact on the world, now and in the future.

Roles and Responsibilities:

It is the duty of every member of the school community to ensure that St Benet's continues to move forward with our Rights Respecting School agenda and that the rights of all children are met and respected. The main responsibility rests with adults in the form of teaching the children about their rights and how to respect the rights of others.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of our governing body to agree and then monitor the school RRS policy. This is done by the link Governor for RRS and the Curriculum Committee.

Policy written and adopted by the governing body of St Benet's.

Signed: *C. Canham* RRS Lead/ Deputy Headteacher

Signed: *P. Jenner* Foundation Governor/ RRS Link Governor

Date: 01-06-2020