

Four Elms Primary School, Bough Beech Road, Four Elms, Kent, TN8 6NE

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Dear Parent /Carer,

In June the Federation will go through an accreditation process for Rights Respecting in the hope of being awarded the highest status of 'Gold'. Seal CE Primary School achieved the Gold award for the first time in 2018 and must now go through the reaccreditation process. Four Elms Primary achieved the Silver award in 2020 and will be hoping to achieve Gold for the first time.

With this in mind, I thought it would be a good opportunity to write to update you on what being a Rights Respecting school means to the Federation.

Through our engaging and creative curriculum, we teach children about their rights as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC). The rights outlined in the UNCRC are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. Pupils in the Inspire Federation learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. We model rights and respect. We provide opportunities for children to exercise their rights and to be social activists. Our Children are inspired and encouraged to become change-makers who feel passionate about campaigning and raising awareness of global and local issues.

Being a Rights Respecting School has allowed the school communities to create environments which are respectful, nurturing and safe. The children are involved in a curriculum which allows them to have ownership, to have a voice and to be engaged in purposeful learning.

As stated by Unicef 'there are **four** key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting school; wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem. The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community'.

Below is a summary of just some of the things we do at both schools to support children's rights:

Learning about rights	Learning for rights	Learning through rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each classroom has a class charter and a playground charter which was created by the children. The charters outline specific rights that the children have agreed to respect inside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restorative justice is used to help pupils talk through and solve issues e.g. friendship disputes. - Each class has an appointed member of the 'Justice League'. Their role is to help members of the class to use Restorative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children play an active role in their learning through self-evaluation and reflection. - Each class has Rights Respecting Ambassadors who make up the School Council. The school council meet weekly.

<p>and outside of the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers and pupils refer to their rights during learning experiences and at opportune times of the day. - There are weekly assemblies that are focused on teaching children about the rights of a child. 	<p>Justice to help solve very minor disputes or disagreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils are taught about fairness, equity and dignity through the use of assemblies and learning experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pupils are involved in whole school monitoring. - Each class has a pupil voice box so that they can share their thoughts and ideas. - Children take part in campaigns based on their rights and the rights others. -We use questionnaires and surveys to ask children about their views and opinions.
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We really hope that you will continue to support us on our Rights Respecting journey. It would be great if you could spend a few minutes reading through our questions & answers on the back of this letter. If you would like to know more or if you have any examples of your child respecting their rights or the rights of others outside of school then please do email me at: jfermor@inspirefederation.co.uk

Yours sincerely,
Jessica Fermor
(Federation RRS Leader)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions	Answers
What does it mean to be a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School?	<p>The children learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day.</p> <p>Children and adults learn about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which outlines what children need to survive and thrive, becoming the best they can be and achieving their potential.</p>
What is the Convention on the Rights of the Child?	<p>In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention recognised that all children have the right to be treated with dignity and fairness, to be protected, to develop to their full potential and to participate. The rights in the Convention describe what a child needs to survive, grow, and live up to their potential in the world. They apply equally to every child, no matter who they are or where they come from.</p> <p>The Convention changed the way children are viewed and treated – in other words, as human beings with a distinct set of rights instead of as passive objects of care and charity. It is the most widely ratified human rights treaty – only the United States has not ratified it. The UK signed up to it in 1991.</p> <p>You can read more about it at www.unicef.org.uk/crc and download a summary of the articles at bit.ly/CRC-over11</p>
What is Unicef?	<p>Unicef is the world's leading organisation for children and young people, promoting the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything they do. Together with their partners, Unicef works in 190 countries to translate that commitment into practical action.</p> <p>Unicef UK is a registered charity. It raises funds through donations from individuals, organisations and companies and campaigns to keep children safe. Unicef UK also works with schools, hospitals and local authorities in the UK to put children at the heart of what they do.</p> <p>To find out more about Unicef, go to www.unicef.org.uk</p>
How does being a Rights Respecting School benefit my child(ren)?	<p>This approach works to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. It improves children's respect for themselves and others and contributes to the children being more engaged in their learning.</p>
How can I get involved?	<p>If you would like to help us in our journey to the gold award you could speak to your child/children at home about their rights and you could support them in becoming a positive global citizen e.g. campaigning, litter picking, care in the community.</p> <p>If you have any Rights Respecting work that your child has completed outside of school then please do share it with us at jfermor@inspirefederation.co.uk</p>

Where can I find out more?	<p>Here are some additional documents that you might like to explore:</p> <p><u>A summary of the articles for adults</u></p> <p><u>Child friendly version of the UNCRC</u></p> <p><u>Myths and misconceptions about the UNCRC</u></p> <p><u>Website for Rights Respecting Schools</u></p> <p>You could also visit the Rights Respecting section on our website.</p>
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