



### **What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award?**

Using their own definition, UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. A rights-respecting school is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. Young people and the school community learn about children's rights by putting them into practice every day.

### **What is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) consists of 54 articles. A 'child' is defined as every human being below the age of 18. The key provisions are:

- The right to a childhood (including protection from harm)
- The right to be educated (including all girls and boys completing primary school)
- The right to be healthy (including having clean water, nutritious food and medical care)
- The right to be treated fairly (which includes changing laws and practices that discriminate against children)
- The right to be heard (which includes considering children's views)

[Click here to learn more...](#)

### **Who is UNICEF?**

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. Every child, no matter who they are or where they live, has the right to grow up safe, happy and healthy. UNICEF UK raises funds for UNICEF's emergency and development work around the world and advocates for lasting change for children worldwide. This includes working to change government policies and practices that restrict child rights in the UK and internationally. They are a UK registered charity, supported entirely by voluntary donations.

### **What is done at FCC?**

We have formed a steering group who work hard to ensure that the rights of children are respected and recognised as key to all we do at Felpham Community College. An initial piece of work was to create new college charters that were based on the rights upheld through the CRC. This was initially devised by students before being taken to staff and the governors. These charters clearly set out the key factors that we feel secure a positive environment for learning. They work closely with ambassadors in other schools to make a difference within the community (for example through collecting donations for the Bognor Regis Food bank and through raising money for charity) and in

educating others about their rights (for example through leading workshops at local primary schools on the CRC and the importance of rights).

We have been reviewing our schemes of work so that the CRC is explicitly taught through different curriculum areas including Citizenship, IT, Modern Foreign Languages and History.

**[Click here to see the college charters...](#)**

### **How can you help?**

All persons over the age of 18 are duty bearers, responsible for ensuring that children's rights are upheld. If you have never heard of the CRC then please do take the time to read it and to reflect on the rights our children have. Unfortunately, whilst most countries in the world signed up to the convention, many children on a global level fail to access their rights.

We are always looking to recruit new members to our steering group so, if you feel strongly about children's rights and would like to be involved in making a difference, then please feel free to contact me on [mlkelly@felpham.org.uk](mailto:mlkelly@felpham.org.uk).

**Michelle Kelly, Assistant Headteacher**

