

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. They work to protect and promote children's rights. Their practical programmes help meet every child's right to be healthy, to be educated, to be treated fairly, to be heard, and to have a childhood protected from violence, abuse and exploitation. They work with governments and communities to help them keep their promise to fulfil children's rights.



BROOK INFANT SCHOOL  
AND NURSERY

## Sparkly Rights at Brook Infant Nursery



## Rights Respecting School

We teach the children that they have both rights and responsibilities. We have a school charter which encompasses our sparkly rights: these rights were devised by the children and are the basis of our school ethos. All classes adhere to their sparkly rights and these are displayed around the school and in all classes.



### Our Sparkly Rights

- I have the right to be safe and healthy
- I have the right to have a voice and be heard
- I have the right to be different and to be me
  - I have the right to play and have fun
    - I have a right to learn
  - I have a right to be part of the world

We teach the children each right holds responsibilities throughout their time at Brook Infants. For example,

- I have the right to learn - my responsibility is to listen to others, allow others to listen and not distract them from learning.

Our curriculum is based upon each of these rights. They are taught across the topics in a creative, imaginative and 'real life' way from Nursery through to Year 2.

### **Rights Respecting School (RRS)**

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

In signing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all Governments have a responsibility to make both children and adults aware of these rights.

UNICEF Schools are the best place to reach the vast majority of children. The RRS programme is based on teaching about and through the UN Convention.

**What is meant by 'rights'?** These are not the same as 'wants'. What are termed rights are the basic human needs and the values that apply or should apply to everyone. E.g. the right to eat healthily and drink water.

#### **Does the Convention talk about responsibilities?**

Yes. With rights come responsibilities. These include:

- For children: the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- For teachers: to promote and teach the children their rights.
- For parents: to respect and provide for the rights of their children.
- For governments: to support families and to respect and provide for the rights of children.

#### **How does teaching about children's rights fit in with the aims of the school?**

The aim of both RRS and the school is to help children in achieving their potential and become responsible citizens. What is taught in the RRS curriculum helps children learn respect for themselves, others, critical thinking skills, and informed decision-making.

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

Research evidence shows that when children are taught in school about their rights and responsibilities under the UN Convention, they are more respecting of the rights of others. Children who have learnt about their rights show:

- a better understanding of what it means to have rights and respect others
- more positive attitudes to school
- better relationships with their classmates and teachers
- higher self-esteem.