

Frequently asked questions

What is a rights respecting school?

A Unicef UK Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Children and young people and the school community learn about children's rights by putting them into practice every day. The Award is not just about what children do but also importantly what adults do – in Rights Respecting Schools, children's rights are promoted and realised and adults and children work towards this together.

I'm a child – what are my rights?

"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. Sometimes, we have to think about rights in terms of what is the best for children in a situation, and what is critical to life and protection from harm. As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights.

What is the UNCRC?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is the basis of all of Unicef's work. It is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history.

What makes the UNCRC so special?

The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status.

The UNCRC is also the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. All UN member states except for the United States have ratified the Convention. The UK signed it in 1990, and it came into UK law in 1992.

WHAT WILL ESCOMB BE DOING AS PART OF THE RIGHTS-RESPECTING AGENDA?

Children will be continuing to learn about their own rights in all aspects of school life, from helping each other to make healthy choices at lunchtime, to creating their own class charters to encourage respectful behaviour. We will also be learning about children across the globe who may have not have their rights met, for example through our Day For Change. Our aim is that the rights of children are embedded throughout our school and that children are involved in this as much as possible, which is supported by our school mission statement, "Growing and Learning Together".