

# OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS PRIMARY SCHOOL



## RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL POLICY

### UNCRC Links

**Article 2:** All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

**Article 3:** All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

**Article 12:** You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

### Rationale

*'We believe everyone in our school has the right to develop their individual voice as a young person and should be supported to do so.'*

*Our Lady of the Missions Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors*

In Our Lady of the Missions, *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNCRC*, and the social, emotional, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing of our pupils, lie at the heart of our ethos, vision and values. Children's rights are embedded in all our curricular areas and our daily practice. Our pupils are taught about, and empowered to exercise, the unconditional rights they have been given, their value and the importance of respecting the dignity and rights of others. We aim to create an environment where relationships are built upon mutual trust, tolerance and respect and that we all (adults and children) display rights respecting behaviour towards each other.

### Principles

*The UNCRC* sets out the rights of children in 54 Articles. These basic rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation and, with our Catholic ethos, underpin the values of our school.

*Kindness respect teamwork independence honesty positivity*

### **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

### **ABCDE of Rights**

**UNIVERSAL** Rights are for **ALL** children.

**INHERENT** Rights are there at **BIRTH**.

**INALIENABLE** Rights **CANNOT** be taken away.

**UNCONDITIONAL** Rights **DO NOT** have to be earned.

**INDIVISIBLE** All rights are **EQUALLY** important

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The responsibility for Our Lady of the Missions Primary School being a Rights Respecting School lies with every member of the community, led by the Rights Respecting Ambassadors. The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights lies with the adults – duty bearers.

## **Aims**

### ***A Rights Respecting Ethos is at the Heart of our Community***

Class charters are drawn up in consultation between adults and children and identify the rights that are most relevant to them; together with the ways in which adults and children will act in order to ensure these rights are respected. Our House and Stars systems recognise the rights of all of our pupils and are allied to those rights.

All members of the community model rights respecting language and behaviour.

The environment is safe, physically, socially and emotionally.

Conflicts are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems and pupils are trained to be peer mediators.

### ***Rights Respecting Values underpin Leadership and Management***

All decisions are taken in the best interest of children and take account of pupils' views.

Within school policies, links with the values and principles of the UNCRC are made explicit.

Development as a rights respecting school is an integral part of strategic planning and is both explicit and implicit in our annual school improvement planning.

Senior Management Team (SMT) and Rights Respecting Ambassadors monitor the implementation of the UNCRC throughout the school and work with all stakeholders to self-evaluate and plan for improvements using HGIOS 4 and HGIOURS.

Annual training for all staff to ensure that knowledge and understanding remains relevant.

The Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors set an annual calendar of events based on the UNCRC. They lead assemblies, coordinate events and initiate and support campaigns. They ensure that the UNCRC continue to be at the heart of school life.

### ***Children are empowered to become active citizens and learners***

Pupil voice is strong in Our Lady of the Missions, and pupils' opinions and thoughts are sought, encouraged, respected and heard in all aspects of the school's work and life.

Pupil leadership is an integral aspect of the day to day life of the school. Children are given opportunities to lead aspects of school life through leading their own learning and taking on responsibility within the classroom, collaborating with and supporting others and leading a range of groups including: Pupil Council, Eco Council, Fairtrade Group, Digital Leaders, Space Pioneers, Guardians of the Garden, Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors, Peer Mediators, Buddies, Monitors, House Captains and Head Pupils.

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 through events, campaigns and fundraisers.

All children are taught about the sustainable development Global Goals 2030 in a meaningful and relevant way.