 **Kingsbarns Primary School**

**Rights Respecting Schools**

Kingsbarns Primary School is taking part in the Rights Respecting School programme. Some of you might have heard about it but some might not, so we have put together an information sheet to help you understand more about it - What it is? Why we are doing it? How will it affect my Child? Can parents get involved? etc.

**The Background:**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (**C.R.C.)** is the most complete statement of children’s rights ever produced and is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history. All UN member states except for the United States have ratified the Convention. The Convention came into force in the UK in 1998. This year the Scottish Government has incorporated the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law. UNICEF are the official charitable body that supports he implementation of the CRC and through their **Rights Respecting Schools Award, it puts children’s rights at the heart of schools in the UK.**

The **C.R.C.** sets out 54 Articles or Rights that apply to all children in the most simplistic terms possible, here’s some of what is outlined in the **C.R.C**.:

-Children are entitled to food, shelter, and access to medical services.

-Children have a right to be educated, to play, and to engage in leisure and cultural activities.

-Children should be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

-Children should be allowed to express their opinions and have a say in matters that impact their lives.

-Children should be treated with kindness and respect.

 You can find out more information on this link to UNICEF’s Rights Respecting Schools:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

 **How Do Schools Get Involved?**

“The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance.”

Schools involved in the Rights Respecting Schools Award work towards the recognition that they have embedded children and young people’s rights in their school’s practice and ethos. Schools are required to implement three evidence-based strands that cover the leadership of the school, knowledge and understanding of children’s rights, ethos and relationships and the empowerment of children and young people.

**What Are The 3 Rights Respecting School Awards?**

1. [Bronze: Rights Committed](https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/getting-started/bronze/)
2. [Silver: Rights Aware](https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/getting-started/silver/)
3. Gold: Rights Respecting

Kingsbarns Primary is at the very early stages of the Bronze award, we have just started on the Rights Respecting School (RRS) Journey. The stages we need to cover at the Bronze level are:

* Staff and pupil complete questionnaires
* Form a Steering Group of staff, pupils and parents
* Inform pupils and parents of the RRS journey
* Audit the current curriculum against the Silver Level indicators
* Draw up an action plan for implementation

**Who Is On The Steering Group?**

Mrs Henshaw (staff), Ms Boyd (staff) and Kat Fox (parent) have volunteered to be on the steering group. Pupils from both classes will now be invited to put themselves forward (2 from each class) and this will complete the Steering Group.

Today in school there has been a Rights Respecting SWAY assembly to introduce RRS to pupils. The RRS SWAY link can be found at the end of this newsletter for parents to watch and along with this e-newsletter; hopefully you should all have a better understanding of what we are doing and what it involves. The Steering Group will keep you informed about our progress in RRS on a regular basis. There will be many opportunities for families and friends to join the pupils in some of the activities that we will carry out.

The audit and planning stage will take place next session and will form a part of the School Improvement Plan. We will keep you informed as we go along.

**Interested and what to get more involved?**

If you are really excited about this topic and want to get involved, here’s an invite to join an online session “Making Children’s Rights Real Across Scotland” on May 27th:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-childrens-rights-real-across-scotland-registration-150530020343?fbclid=IwAR38xugvb1VNxk5UbCeQIJruM7Hg-BYgC_vKpefNDIoFTMysnb56cwfJbv0>

**What We Think About This?**

"I was thrilled to learn that Kingsbarns is working towards becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Though I’ve not done the training, I do know a bit about the movement for guaranteeing children’s rights, and, more specifically, how that movement is currently playing out here in Scotland.” Kat Fox- Parent

“Working on Rights Respecting Schools is exciting for Kingsbarns Primary. It will impact on all aspects of school life in a positive way. It will enhance the curriculum, build on what we do already and develop a sense of citizenship as we think about how children might enjoy rights in Kingsbarns, in Scotland and around the world.” Mrs Shafren - Headteacher

“RRS schools will put the rights of the child at the core of what Kingsbarns does. It seems fitting that, as we enter our 2nd Centenary in this building that we are right up to date with policy and Scottish law in giving our children a voice in the way they want to learn and grow, helping them to become the global citizens of the future, gaining life skills to equip them for whatever their lives will throw at them. I feel sure that our journey will be a productive one with staff, parents and children working together.”

Ms Henshaw P1-4 class teacher.

“I’m looking forward to helping our children become more aware of other children’s lives in countries around the world.” Ms Spark P5-7 class teacher

“I think that Rights Respecting School will be a great thing for the pupils to be involved with. It will help them gain a better understanding of global issues and how they can be empowered in changes affecting them.” Ms Boyd P4-7 class teacher

“I’m so proud to live in a country that listens and supports children’s rights. It is important to me and Kingsbarns that all children in the world get these rights as well.” Mrs Scott (Depute Head teacher)

“I think that this a good idea because we will learn about Rights Respecting Schools and when we grow up we might be able to help all the people in the world be more Rights Respecting.” Albert Erskine (P4-7 pupil)

 *Thanks to Albert Erskine (P5-7) for asking if the school could get involved in the Rights Respecting School Initiative.*

**The Rights Respecting School Assembly SWAY**

Click on the link to view the SWAY assembly

[*https://sway.office.com/kDkf5Oa8r0bdH1D5?ref=Link*](https://sway.office.com/kDkf5Oa8r0bdH1D5?ref=Link)