

There is **growing** evidence that becoming a Rights Respecting school contributes to:

- Improved pupil self-esteem
- Pupils' enhanced moral development
- Improved behaviour and relationships
- More positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Pupils' development as global citizens
- Enhanced job satisfaction for teachers
- Greater respect for others
- Young people becoming more pro-active in the community

*“ As I explore the rights to which I am entitled, I am able to exercise these rights appropriately and accept the responsibilities that go with them... I show respect for the rights of others”*

*A Curriculum for Excellence (Social Wellbeing)*

#### Useful websites

- [www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa)
- [www.wosdec.org](http://www.wosdec.org) (Wosdec Global Education Centre is based in Central Glasgow and exists to support the development of education for global citizenship in the local authorities of the west of Scotland. )

#### Useful contacts

\* Bruce Wilkinson



# Rights Respecting School Award



## Swinton Primary

# What is a Rights Respecting School?

A Rights Respecting School has the values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at its heart. It is a school where:

- Everyone learns to use the language of rights, respect and responsibility
- Children learn the difference between wants and needs
  - That Needs = Rights
  - That my rights are also your rights i.e. we now learn we have a responsibility.
- Adults and young people model rights-respecting behaviour and language
- Children become active global citizens
- Children gain a powerful voice
- Young people learn that rights bring responsibilities for adults and children

## Pupils in a Rights Respecting school can :

- Give examples of how their own actions have consequences – positive and negative – for the rights of others globally
- Talk about the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Give a range of examples of rights abuses from the immediate context of the school to the global context
- Use the CRC as a framework for making moral judgements across a range of issues including justice and sustainability
- Understand that their own rights are linked with a wide range of personal responsibilities
- Critically evaluate the actions of those with power, including governments, through reference to human rights

# Why it works



- The UNCRC appeals to young people's self-interest
- They like its universality.
- They understand the relationship between rights and responsibilities and find it is an acceptable basis for class and school charters
- They like the fact that it derives from a "higher authority" which is not school-based
- Young people can see that it provides them with a guide for living which they can take with them through their lives
- The values and the articles are equally acceptable to all faiths
- The articles and their values are acceptable to parents and adults working with children.
- It gives coherence to school policies enhancing school leadership
- Young people and adults working with them find the CRC empowering and helps to improve their relationships

