



Newsletter 4

GIRFEC in Action: GIRFEC and Children's Rights in Practice.

Spotlight: Windsor Park School – Rights Respecting Practice

This edition explores the strong alignment between GIRFEC and children's rights.

Windsor Park School's journey to achieving Gold Rights Respecting School status shows how GIRFEC values and children's rights can be embedded meaningfully into everyday practice.

Windsor Park supports deaf children and young people through a Total Communication approach and has long prioritised wellbeing and inclusion. Through its Rights Respecting Schools journey, the school worked to make children's rights explicit, understood and lived – not just by staff, but by learners themselves.

Learner-led steering groups, rights-based language woven into lessons, family engagement through accessible resources, and close partnership with the deaf community all played a key role. Importantly, the work focused on building learners' confidence to understand, articulate and advocate for their rights.

In May 2024, Windsor Park became the first school for deaf children and young people in Scotland to achieve Gold status. Learners now confidently use rights-based language, participate in decision-making and demonstrate strong identity, pride and agency.

Why this matters

- Children are respected, included and actively involved in decisions
- Rights-based language supports confidence and self-advocacy
- Families are meaningful partners, not observers

This is GIRFEC because...

children's wellbeing, voice and rights are central, and support is shaped around what helps them thrive