**Rights Respecting School Award at Alves**

At Alves we are committed to becoming a Rights Respecting School and are currently working towards creating the conditions for a rights respecting culture.

A Rights Respecting School is one in which there is a culture of mutual respect underpinning all of its work. Children will be learning about their rights as identified in the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Rights Respecting School not only teaches children about their rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between adults and pupils, between adults and between pupils. The children will also learn that they have responsibilities – a responsibility to respect the rights of all others in their community. In a Rights Respecting School, children learn to appreciate their role within a community – their school and local community as well as their global community.

**Who is the Rights Respecting Schools Award for?**

The RRSA is a UK-wide initiative for all children and all those working with or for children in formal education. It is being successfully implemented in all settings – Early Years, Primary and Secondary establishments – across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**What impact does the RRSA have?**

A three year qualitative study by researchers at the Universities of Sussex and Brighton found that “The RRSA has had a profound effect on the majority of the schools involved in the programme.”

We would welcome the support of all pupils and parents in working towards achieving this award and look forward to giving you regular updates on our progress towards achieving Level 1 of the Rights Respecting School Award. Please read/view our blog regularly to see how we have been learning about our rights. You can access this through the schools main website. Scroll down to the School blogs section and click on United Nations of Alves page.

Many Thanks,

The UNA and Mrs. Blair

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**(UNCRC)**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC, is the basis of all of [Unicef's work](http://unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-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.

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.

In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, also known as the CRC or UNCRC. The Convention changed the way children are viewed and treated – in other words, as human beings with a distinct set of rights instead of as passive objects of care and charity.

These rights describe what a child needs to survive, grow, and live up to their potential in the world. They apply equally to every child, no matter who they are or where they come from. All children have rights, even those affected by conflict or emergencies.

The Convention must be seen as a whole: all the rights are linked and no right is more important than another. There are four articles in the Convention that are seen as special in that they help interpret all other articles, playing a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are called [**general principles**](http://unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/UN-Convention/general-principles/) (Article 2, 3, 6 and 12).

There are also a number of agreements, called [**Optional Protocols**](http://unicef.org.uk/UNICEFs-Work/UN-Convention/optional-protocols/), which strengthen the Convention and add further unique rights for children.

Unicef is the only organisation working for children recognised by the Convention. All UN member states except for [**the United States**](http://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-11&chapter=4&lang=en) have ratified the Convention (Somalia is in the process of finalising ratification of the Convention). The UK signed it in 1990, and it came into UK law in 1992.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is in charge of making sure that the Convention is properly observed by the countries who have signed it.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>