******Rights Respecting Schools**

**English Department Policy**

**Coatbridge High School**

Dare to Dream, Aim to Achieve.

It is important that the English department promotes the ideas and principles of a Rights Respecting School. This should be done both implicitly and explicitly throughout the year and may take many forms some of which may include:

* Discussing the themes and ideas which arise from teaching a text
* Offering pupils the choice to choose what they write about / research / investigate during tasks
* Listening to pupil’s ideas, beliefs and opinions
* Showing respect and building positive relationships
* Promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination leading to improved self-esteem and lowering the risk of stress.
* Offering opportunities for pupils to get involved in their own learning as well as becoming more active and involved in the department, school life and the wider world.

The **four** key areas of impact for children at a Rights Respecting School are: **wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem.**

The BGE Course Outline includes appropriate articles from the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child which should be incorporated into teaching where and when appropriate. The main articles which apply to the English department are listed below.

**Article 8 (protection and preservation of identity)**

Every child has the right to an identity.

**Article 13 (freedom of expression)**

Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

**Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)**

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

**Article 17 (access to information from the media)**

Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

**Article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance)**

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

**Article 23 (children with a disability)**

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

**Article 24 (health and health services)**

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.

**Article 28 (right to education)**

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children’s dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**Article 29 (goals of education)**

Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

**Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)**

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

**Article 36 (other forms of exploitation)**

Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research

**Article 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)**

Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

**Article 42 (knowledge of rights**)

Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.