

## Right Respecting School Newsletter October 2023



Since it's the start of a new school year, I wanted to remind existing parents and explain to our new parents what being a right respecting school means.

You may remember that a newsletter was sent out around November 2022 regarding our plan to become a right respecting school. The children have been working hard to achieve bronze status and are well on the way to also achieving silver. The bronze award application form has been submitted to RRSA and we will hopefully hear in the next month as to whether we have achieved bronze.

Please read the following information:

### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The UNCRC took 10 years to write. Representatives from different countries, cultures and religions worked together to create this document. It first came into force in the UK in 1992. The UNCRC protects the rights of all children. In Scotland, children's rights are protected until the age of 18 and up to age 26 for looked after children. The Convention has 54 articles in total but only 42 are directly related to children. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure children can enjoy all their rights. In Scotland, the 54 articles are going to become part of Scottish law.

A right is a moral or legal entitlement to have something. Children are right holders and adults are the duty-bearers. Rights are universal and children are entitled to their rights regardless of religion, race, gender etc. Rights are not rewards to be earned - they are unconditional. However, having rights does not

mean children and young people always get their own way. They can enjoy their rights whilst being respectful to others.

### **What is a right respecting school?**

The children at Carmichael primary have been working together to make sure that Carmichael Primary becomes a right respecting school. To achieve this, we first must gain bronze status (which is a check list of all the things the school plan to do to achieve silver). For silver, an assessor will be sent to the school to observe and decide if we meet the criteria.

Children have already created class charters related to rights. This includes for example, the right to an education. Ways in which the children agreed we can achieve this is to look after educational resources, work quietly when required and to listen carefully during teaching time.

There are also charters for the playground and the dinner hall. Rules on these include the right to play and relax. Children have agreed to take turns, share resources, and allow others to join in when playing games. In the lunch charter, children want a safe, clean, and relaxing environment to enjoy their meals. They also have the right to healthy menu choices and fresh water.

Lessons have been taught across the school in order to help all children become more familiar with their rights and all curricular areas will make links to rights. For example, there are many of the rights which currently link to the World War 2 topic in primary 5-7 and the children refer to these often.

Going forward, the children will continue to link all curricular areas to their rights. They will form a new rights committee (Jane Naismith was our parent representative last year and we hope to have someone to volunteer again this year).

For more information on rights respecting schools, please visit the following website:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

Thank you!

Mrs Thomson

