

Rights Respecting School



ST. NORBERT'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Parent Pocket Guide

To find out more about the UNCRC and the principles outlined, visit these useful websites:

www.unicef.org/crc

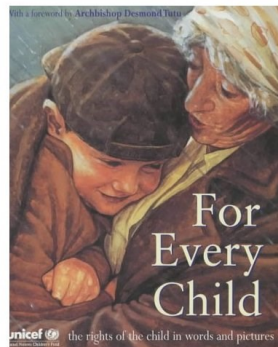
www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

www.gov.uk

www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk

The book 'For Every Child' is also an excellent illustrated resource for children of Primary age and is used frequently in school.

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Saint Norbert's Catholic
Primary School



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What does it mean by Rights?

Human rights are those rights which are essential to live as human beings - basic standards without which people cannot survive and develop in dignity. They are inherent to the human person, inalienable and universal.

The principles outlined in the international human rights framework apply both to children and adults. Children are mentioned explicitly in many of the human rights instruments; standards are specifically modified or adapted where the needs and concerns surrounding a right are distinct for children. The Convention on the Rights of the Child brings together the children's human rights articulated in other international instruments. This Convention articulates the rights more completely and provides a set of guiding principles that fundamentally shapes the way in which we view children.

The guiding principles of the UNCRC include non-discrimination; adherence to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate. They represent the underlying requirements for any and all rights to be realised and all rights are of equal importance.

Adult Responsibility:

All children have the same rights. All rights are interconnected and of equal importance. The Convention stresses these principles and refers to the responsibility of children to respect the rights of others, especially their parents. By the same token, children's understanding of the issues raised in the Convention will vary depending on the age of the child. Helping children to understand their rights does not mean parents should push them to make choices with consequences they are too young to handle.

The Convention expressly recognizes that parents have the most important role in the bringing up children. The UNCRC encourages parents to deal with rights issues with their children "in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child".

Article 5

Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

As a school we facilitate making the correct choices to enable children to respect others and understand that we are all equal and do this by creating a class charter with both the children and adults agreeing to the principles. Children are taught that they all have the same rights and they do not need to earn them but that it is important that they uphold the rights of other children through what they do which is often stated within the UNCRC articles themselves.

Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

What is a Rights Respecting School?

Being a Rights Respecting School means that we have embedded the ethos that everyone has rights no matter who they are and The United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is paramount, enabling children and adults to understand their value and worth. As part of our practice we underpin and link all we do to the UNCRC articles of children's rights. As a school, our School Development Plan, Action plans, Policies, Whole School Theme Plans are all linked to articles from the Convention newsletters.

The children and staff are able to link all they do to how it relates to the rights of the child. In addition, all our displays are linked to articles too. See if you can spot them when you visit!

The Articles:

As you visit our school, our website and read our newsletters, you may notice there are references to 'articles'. The articles come directly from the UNCRC and are integral to our day to day practice. Throughout the year, we have a number of enrichment days, community events, fundraising and theme days which we link to the articles from the UNCRC and ensure that the children understand how our practice links to their rights and to the rights of others locally, nationally and globally.

Article 42- You have the right to know your rights!

Class Charters:

Every class has an agreed set of promises they make with the adults and children in class at the beginning of the academic year. The promises they make are linked to the rights of the child and are designed to serve as a reminder of their rights and the most effective, agreed ways to be a positive and active citizen in school and wider community. The charter is signed by all the stakeholders in the class and is displayed prominently in the classroom.

Article 12- You have the right to your own opinion and adults should listen and take you seriously