



BANCHORY-DEVENICK SCHOOL
A Practice Statement for Rights Respecting Schools



'All children have rights, and those rights must be protected' - Novak Djokovic

Rationale:

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. The convention sets out the rights of children in 54 articles. These basic rights encompass survival, development, protection and participation.

The UNCRC is unpinned by four principals:

- Non-discrimination
- Commitment to the best interests of the child
- A right to life, survival and development
- Respect for the views of the child

Banchory-Devenick School is a Rights Respecting School, and children and adults are committed to promoting the rights of the child. We believe that by understanding their own rights, children learn to respect and value the rights of others.

Aims

At Banchory-Devenick, we aim to develop our pupils as responsible citizens who make positive contributions to their school, their community and the wider world.

We achieve this by encouraging them to:

- Respect the rights of others.
- Accept responsibility for their words, behaviours and actions.
- Believe in themselves and develop their potential.
- Establish strong relationships with all stakeholders.
- Show awareness of their own and others' safety.

This can be achieved by:

- Creating an environment and ethos where children, families and staff feel included, valued and listened to.
- Ensuring that the whole school community is aware of our Rights Respecting Schools policy and understands how it operates.
- Using a 'values'-based approach rather than a 'rules'-based approach.

Within school we are aware that:

- All rights are equally important.






- That rights are universal and cannot be taken away.
- That the main responsibility for ensuring that all children (Rights Holders) enjoy their rights lies with the adults (Duty Bearers).

Guidelines for Planning:







1. In April 2022, the schools' Rights Respecting Schools Group identified the following UNCRC articles they wanted to the school to focus on:

The right to be treated fairly... Article 2	 <p>2 NO DISCRIMINATION</p>
The right to be ME...Article 8	 <p>8 IDENTITY</p>
The right to set up or join a group...Article 15	 <p>15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS</p>
The right to get the support we need to help us learn...Article 23	 <p>23 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</p>
The right to the conditions we need for our wellbeing...Article 27	 <p>27 FOOD, CLOTHING, A SAFE HOME</p>
The right to celebrate our traditions and culture/...Article 30	 <p>30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION</p>
The right to opportunities to rest, play and develop hobbies and talents...Article 31	 <p>31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS</p>
The right to feel safe and protected...Article 36	 <p>36 PROTECTION FROM EXPLOITATION</p>

These were then linked to relevant Fair-Trade articles:

Fair-Trade practices...Article 3	
Fair payment...Article 4	
Capacity building...Article 8	
Promote Fair-Trade...Article 9	
Respect for the environment...Article 10	

And the Global Goals (also known as Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs):

No poverty...Goal 1	
Zero hunger...Goal 2	
Good health and wellbeing...Goal 3	
Clean water and sanitation...Goal 6	
Reduced inequalities...Goal 10	
Climate action...Goal 13	
Peace, justice and strong institution...Goal 16	

2. At Banchory-Devenick School, we strive to ensure that all decisions are taken in the best interests of the children in our care. School and class values have been drawn up alongside pupils and parents. A school charter (based on the UNCRC rights, Fair-Trade articles and Global Goals) is displayed in the school hall and each class has their own

charter based on the school values. A magnet with the school values is given to all new pupils when they join us. Our values are summarised in a school song which is regularly sung at events.

3. School plans and displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC rights, Fair Trade articles and Global Goals where appropriate.

4. Refresher training for Child Protection, GIRFEC and Children's rights takes place on an annual basis.

5. As well as having an active Rights Respecting Schools group, we learn about children's rights in class and in assemblies. Our work is shared with the wider school community through newsletters, films and a termly blog.

6. All members of the school community model rights respecting values and all are encouraged to be ambassadors for children's rights.

7. Our school environment is designed to make children feel safe and protected both physically and emotionally. Conflicts are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems.

8. We actively encourage our pupils to have a voice through a Pupil Voice Box. At the start of session 2022-2023, we introduced a 'You Said/We Did' board so that the children can see that their views and opinions are taken seriously and are actioned. We have a child friendly School Improvement Plan and children are involved in evaluating it at the end of a session.

9. All children are part of a Pupil Voice Group. At present, these include Health Promotion, Eco and Rights Respecting Schools.

10. All pupils are encouraged to identify themselves as Global Citizens and are given opportunities to develop their knowledge and awareness of how they can have a positive impact on the world, now and in the future. As part of this work, the P5-7 class have formed a Social Enterprise called Fabulous FairTrade Feasts and we support the local foodbank to help families who are suffering because of the Cost of Living Crisis.



Awards

- First Mindsafe School in Scotland (March 2022)
- Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award (June 22)
- Social Enterprise Academy Schools Award (June 2022)
- Fair Trade Fair Achiever School (September 2022)
- Innovation Award at the Scottish Fair Trade Awards 2022 (November 2022)
- CREST Superstar Awards (P5-P7)
- Discovery Level John Muir Awards (P5-P7)

We are currently working towards:

- Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award
- Eco Green Flag Award
- Silver Reading Schools Award
- CREST Star Awards (P1-P4)

Appendices

It is intended that this Practice Statement is read in conjunction with the following documents all of which can be found on the school website:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Practice Statement
- Anti-Bullying Practice Statement
- Vision, Values and Aims Statement
- Internet Safety Practice Statement and Guidelines
- Fair-Trade Practice Statement

References

- The Rights Respecting Schools Award | UNICEF UK
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - UNICEF UK
- Fairtrade School Awards - Fairtrade Schools
- THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)

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