# Why do we want to be a Rights Respecting School?

A Rights Respecting School means better relationships.

In a Rights Respecting School, relationships are based on mutual respect; everyone is equal, and everyone's opinion is valued.

A Rights Respecting School means happier children.

By actively promoting the values of respect, dignity and non-discrimination, that are at the heart of the UNCRC, children's self-esteem and wellbeing is strengthened.

A Rights Respecting School means children feel safe.

Through knowing about the UNCRC, children are able to think about how they and others are treated and challenge what they see as unfair.

A Rights Respecting School means children play an active part in school life.

Throughout the reward journey, children and young people are involved in decisions being made about their learning and their well-being.



A Rights Respecting School means promoting global citizenship.

The children are involved in raising awareness about social justice issues, at home and abroad. They become ambassadors for equity and rights and take part in campaigns and activities to help to bring about change.

**There are so many great reasons for us to become a Rights Respecting School!**

Please support us in our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School.

Talk to your children about what they know and are learning about the UNCRC.

On our journey towards the Silver and Gold awards, we would like to involve the community. If you would be interested in helping to promote rights within school, work with the Rights Knights or throughout the local community, please get in contact with Mr Anderson via the school office.

Further information can be found on UNICEF UK's website:
https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/

# What is a Rights Respecting School?

## Information for Families

RATHO PRIMARY SCHOOL

# What Is a Rights Respecting School?

Rights Respecting Schools is an initiative run by UNICEF UK based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

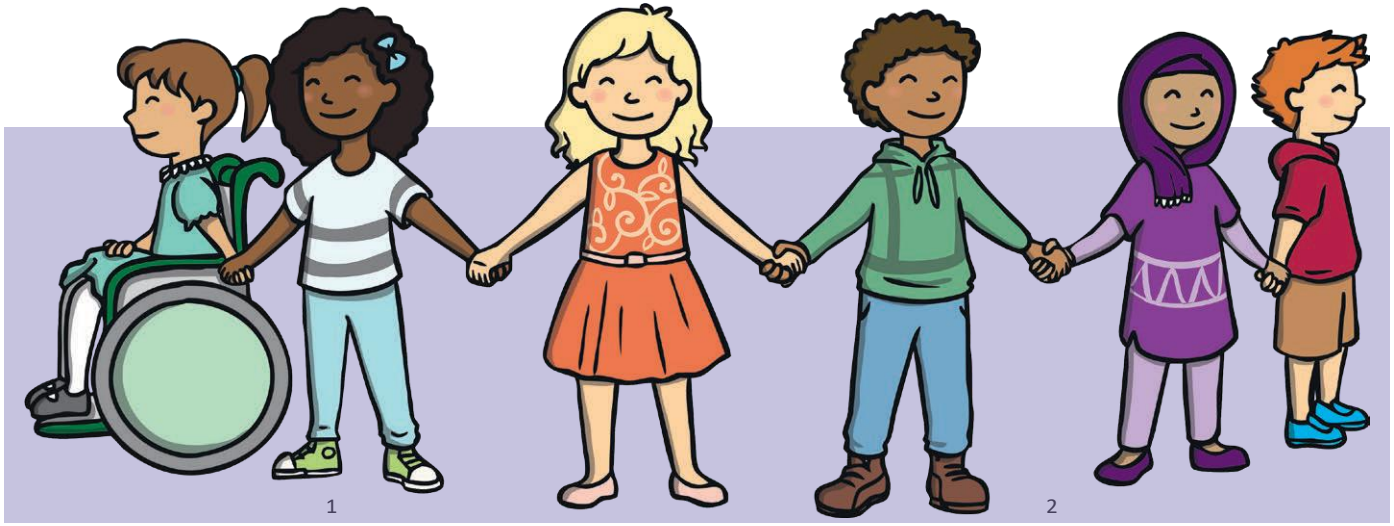
It is a series of three levels of award that schools work towards achieving:

Bronze, Silver and Gold.

At Ratho we have achieved the Bronze award and we are now working towards Silver.

## What Is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a statement of children's rights. It has 54 articles that cover all areas of a child's life and it sets out the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights that all children are entitled to. The Convention came into force in the UK in 1992.





# What do schools have to do to become a Rights Respecting School?

Achieving any of the Rights Respecting School awards is not just about proving that as a school we have completed a task or covered set criteria, it is about a commitment to placing the rights of the child at the centre of everything we do throughout the school and in all areas of school life.

To achieve the Bronze award, we introduced class charters with the children recognising key rights to support in their learning and respect for others. Children at Ratho know what rights are, why they are important and how to access them.

The Rights group at Ratho is called the Rights Knights. Each week they meet to discuss the Article of the Week and share this with their classes. This helps to strengthen their understanding of what rights are.



# What do schools have to do to become a Rights Respecting School?

The journey to receiving the Gold award can take three to four years.

UNICEF UK works with schools as they work towards becoming Rights Respecting. UNICEF UK helps teachers work with children throughout the school on issues facing the world today. Topics include the plight of refugees, the environment and climate change.

UNICEF UK will also assess the school when it is ready for each award.

## When we achieve Rights Respecting status, what next?

Once a school has been awarded Silver and Gold accreditations these have to be reviewed after three years to ensure schools are still putting children and young people's rights first in their school's practice and ethos.