

Roseberry Primary School

Right Respecting Day – Wednesday 7th January 2015

Governors, teaching staff and pupils are proud to be taking part in the Rights Respecting Schools initiative backed by Unicef. It is a nationwide campaign recognising achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of the schools planning, policies, practice and ethos.

Joined by Governors, the whole school took part in an assembly to launch the programme with each year group contributing. Year 1 discussed the rights to shelter, comparing different types of homes around the world and assessing their suitability, whilst Year 2 considered today's standards with those of the past; an outdoor toilet and a tin bath in front of the fire compared to a fitted bathroom showed the differences in what is considered a good standard of living.

Year 3 incorporated the initiative into their homework and have been investigating the Unicef Rights and Responsibilities. They discussed their findings and shared what they thought was most important, concluding by telling the audience that rights are not based on religion, sex, background or class. Connected to their topic, they considered wants versus needs and decided needs were the same as rights, expressing rights are not gifts that can be wrapped.

Every right has a responsibility and Year 4 prepared a responsibility connected to each right whilst making a promise to keep these in mind and be the best they can be. A visit round the school sees these rights and responsibilities displayed as a reminder to the children. Next to the water fountain is the right to clean water and a responsibility not to waste it.

Year 5 has been working with cards to sort individual rights into order of importance. They discussed the difference between wants and needs and shared the story of Charles, a 12 year old boy from Uganda, comparing his access to rights against their own.

Also considering the right to shelter, Year 6 considered the rights within the home and showcased various houses around the world before discussing their suitability, showing a keen awareness of global issues and differences.

Mrs Haslam has been leading the initiative and said today, *"It is important that this becomes part of the culture of the school and I am pleased the children are taking a lead to become involved and share good practice. I'm confident it won't stop today and we are already seeing classes adopting the values, incorporating them into their project work and showcasing their learning both in the classroom and across various displays."*

"Our Rights Respecting Champions have made a commitment and will provide the school with a pupil voice. Alongside Governors, children will have an opportunity to become involved in what happens within their school environment whilst appreciating their responsibilities towards others."

"It has been lovely to see the children engage in this initiative. They are able to recognise the privileges they enjoy and are learning how to respect each other." Rachel O'Riordan, Parent Governor

“We have been working hard to learn what rights we have and our responsibilities towards them. We are able to recognise the differences around the world and get to share what we have learnt with the rest of the school.” Hannah, Rights Respecting Champion

“We are ambassadors of Rights Respecting Schools and will hold an assembly every two weeks to share what we have learnt with the rest of the school. We wear a badge to identify us to others and it was good to have the launch assembly today to let everyone know they can come to us.” Nieve, Rights Respecting Champion