

All human rights treaties are international agreements that apply equally to children and adults. What is different about the Convention is that it lays out specific rights that only apply to children. It also explains what governments must do at national and local level to make sure that children's rights are promoted, respected, protected and realised. Governments have the lead responsibility for the realisation of children's rights and all adults – including teachers, social workers, doctors and parents – have a responsibility to respect these rights and help children experience their rights.

## WHAT DOES THE CONVENTION MEAN FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN?

It is very important for children and young people to learn about and understand their rights, as well as know who is responsible for making rights a reality. Governments, schools, the media and all adults should help them with this.

The Convention also confirms that children are active participants in the lives of their families, communities and society, so governments and adults must create opportunities for children to play a role in the realisation of their rights.

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports schools across the UK to embed children's rights in their ethos and culture.

The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. It recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's practice to improve well-being and help all children realise their potential. A rights-respecting school is a community where children's rights are

learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

We work with primary schools, secondary schools, schools for children with special educational needs and pupil referral units across the UK to promote a child rights-based approach and to share good practice in improving outcomes for children and young people. Schools involved in the award have reported a positive impact on behaviour, relationships and well-being, leading to better learning, improved academic standards and a reduction in bullying.

## WHAT IS THE RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD?



In 1989, governments across the world adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), recognising that all children have the right to be treated with dignity and fairness, to be protected, to develop to their full potential and to participate. The Convention sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that everyone under 18 is entitled to. It says what countries must do to ensure that all children can enjoy their rights, regardless of who they are, or where they are from.

The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention in 1989 and it was ratified by the UK in 1991. It is the most widely adopted international human rights treaty.

The Convention underpins all the work that Unicef does.

## WHAT IS THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD?



## UNICEF IS THE WORLD'S LEADING ORGANISATION WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS

We work with families, local communities, partners and governments in more than 190 countries. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child guides all our work.

Unicef ensures more of the world's children are fed, vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. We have done more to influence laws, policies and customs to help protect children than anyone else in history. We get things done. And we're not going to stop until the world is a safe place for all our children.

We receive no funding from the UN budget. Most of our money comes from people, companies and other organisations.

Find out more about Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award [unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://unicef.org.uk/rrsa)

Teachers can access classroom resources about children's rights at [unicef.org.uk/RRSA-resources](http://unicef.org.uk/RRSA-resources)

**Interested in fundraising?**  
Find out about our schools' fundraising initiative at [unicef.org.uk/dayforchange](http://unicef.org.uk/dayforchange)

For further copies of this leaflet, please go to [unicef.org.uk/32910](http://unicef.org.uk/32910) or call the Unicef UK Education Order Line on **0844 801 2413** quoting code 32910P.

This is a summary version of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, aimed at adults and children aged 11 and up. For the full text, go to [unicef.org.uk/convention-fulltext](http://unicef.org.uk/convention-fulltext)

[unicef.org.uk](http://unicef.org.uk)

## THE RIGHTS OF EVERY CHILD

### A SUMMARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the human rights of every person under 18. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 and ratified by the UK in 1991.

The Convention applies to **every child** without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background (Article 2).