

Countering racist bullying

Paper 13: Rights respecting schools – an international perspective

This paper

This paper describes an awards scheme currently being piloted by Unicef UK. International research on rights respecting schools shows:

- ❑ reduction in behaviour that infringes on the rights of other students, for example bullying
 - ❑ greater self-control over outbursts of challenging behaviour
 - ❑ more assertive behaviour from other children, who exercise their 'right to education' when faced by inappropriate behaviour.
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Unicef awards scheme

The Rights Respecting School Award Scheme promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as the basis for enhancing teaching, learning, ethos, attitudes and behaviour. It is currently being piloted in over 30 schools across the UK. It will go live in autumn 2006.

A rights respecting school not only teaches about children's and human rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships – amongst pupils, and also between teachers and pupils, and adults and young people.

Participating schools receive:

- ❑ free in-school support from their local UNICEF Education Officer
- ❑ free inservice training for Teachers, Support Workers, Governors and Lunchtime organisers.
- ❑ free UNICEF resources.

For a school to receive the RRS Award, it must show evidence that it has reached the required standard in each of four aspects:

- ❑ knowledge and understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) amongst the school community and its relevance to the school ethos and curriculum
- ❑ teaching and learning styles and methods commensurate with knowledge and understanding of children's rights
- ❑ pupils actively participating in decision-making throughout the school
- ❑ professional development to support rights as part of the school ethos, curriculum and culture.

There is fuller information at www.unicef.org/uk/tz/teacher_support/index.asp.

There is also substantial information at:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/hias/childrensrights/rrr-general/rrrthecase.htm>
