

A photograph of four diverse children of various ethnicities smiling and looking upwards against a blue sky with trees in the background. They are wearing jackets, suggesting a cool day.

THE RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD: STARTING RRSA



THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

This sets out the rights of every child under 18 years across the world and how these rights should be met.

Under the terms of the Convention, children are the 'rights holders' and adults are the 'duty bearers'.



What is a Rights Respecting School?

A Rights Respecting School embeds children's rights in their ethos and culture.

It is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

Schools involved report a positive impact on behaviour, relationships and well-being, leading to better learning, improved academic standards and a reduction in bullying.



Incorporating Rights into our School

- Rights are **universal** meaning for all children, everywhere, all the time.
- Rights are **unconditional** meaning they are not a reward and not dependent on a responsibility or performing an action to get them.
- Rights are **inalienable** meaning you cannot give them away or sell them and no one can take them from you.
- Rights are **indivisible** meaning no right is more important than another one. They are a whole package and they are interlinked.
- Rights are **inherent** meaning they are yours because you are born a human.

TO BE HEALTHY



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TO BE TREATED FAIRLY



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EDUCATION



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TO BE HEARD



A summary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Denying child rights is wrong. Put it right.

Article 1 **Definition of the child**
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

Article 2 **Without discrimination**
The Convention applies to every child, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say, or whether what type of family they come from.

Article 3 **Best interests of the child**
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children.

Article 4 **Protection of rights**
Governments must do all they can to fulfil the rights of every child.

Article 5 **Parental guidance**
Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide and advise their child so that, as they grow, they learn to enjoy their rights properly.

Article 6 **Nurture and development**
Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and grow up healthy.

Article 7 **Registration, name, nationality, care**
Every child has the right to a legally registered name and nationality, as well as the right to know and, as far as possible, to care for by their parents.

Article 8 **Preservation of identity**
Governments must respect and protect a child's identity and prevent their name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully. If a child has been illegally denied part of their identity, governments must act quickly to protect and assist the child to establish their identity.

Article 9 **Separation from parents**
Children must not be separated from their parents unless it is in the best interests of the child. For example, in cases of abuse or neglect, a child must be given the chance to reunite their parent when behaviour about parental responsibilities are being made. Every child has the right to live in contact with their parents, unless this might harm them.

Article 10 **Family reunification**
Governments must respect quickly and sympathetically if a child or their parents apply to live together in the same country. If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit both of them.

Article 11 **Child abduction and trafficking**
Governments must take steps to prevent children being taken out of their own country illegally or being prevented from returning.

Article 12 **Respect for the views of the child**
Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views heard seriously.

Article 13 **Freedom of expression**
Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive information of any kind as long as it is within the law.

Article 14 **Freedom of thought, belief and religion**
Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children guidance about the right.

Article 15 **Freedom of association**
Every child has the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 16 **Right to privacy**
Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's name, family and home life.

Article 17 **Access to information from mass media**
Every child has the right to receive information from the mass media. Television, radio, newspapers and other media should provide information that children can understand. Governments must help children learn selectively that could harm them.

Article 18 **Parental responsibilities, state assistance**
Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must help parents by providing services to support them, especially if the child's parents work.

Article 19 **Protection from all forms of violence**
Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and mistreatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20 **Children deprived of a family**
If a child cannot be looked after by their family, governments must make sure that they are looked after properly by people who respect the child's religion, culture and language.

Article 21 **Adoption**
If a child is adopted, the best interests must be what is best for the child. The same protection and standards should apply whether the child is adopted in the country where they were born or in another country.

Article 22 **Judges and children**
If a child is a witness or seeking refuge, governments must ensure that they have the same rights as any other child. Governments must help in trying to help child witnesses with their parents. Where this is not possible, the child should be given protection.

Article 23 **Children with disabilities**
A child with a disability has the right to live a full and abundant life in conditions that promote dignity, independence and an active role in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide free care and assistance to children with disability.

Article 24 **Health and health services**
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Higher standards must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 25 **Review of treatment in care**
If a child has been placed away from home in care, hospital or custody, for example, they have the right to a regular check of their treatment and conditions of care.

Article 26 **Social security**
Governments must provide extra money for the children of families in need.

Article 27 **Adequate standard of living**
Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28 **Right to education**
Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's human dignity. Wealthy countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 **Goals of education**
Education should develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 30 **Children of minorities**
Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family whether or not there are other children of the majority of the people in the country where they live.

Article 31 **Leisure, play and culture**
Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 32 **Child labour**
Governments must protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or education.

Article 33 **Drug abuse**
Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.

Article 34 **Sexual exploitation**
Governments must protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Article 35 **Child prostitution**
Governments must ensure that children are not recruited in sold.

Article 36 **Other forms of exploitation**
Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation that might harm them.

Article 37 **Detention**
No child should be tortured or suffer other cruel treatment or punishment. A child should only ever be arrested or put in prison as a last resort and for the shortest possible time. Children must not be put in a prison with adults and they must be able to keep in contact with their family.

Article 38 **War and armed conflicts** - see 'Optional protocols'
Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war. Governments must allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces.

Article 39 **Rehabilitation of child victims**
Children subjected, abused, exploited, tortured or who are victims of war must receive special help to help them recover their health, dignity and self-respect.

Article 40 **Juvenile justice**
A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to help from a lawyer and a fair trial that their amount of their age or situation. The child's priority must be supported at all times.

Article 41 **Provision for better national standards**
If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws must stay.

Article 42 **Awareness of rights**
Governments must make the Convention known to children and adults.

The Convention has 54 articles in total. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children get all their rights, including:

Article 5
UNICEF can provide expert advice and assistance on children's rights.

Optional protocols
In 2002, the UN General Assembly adopted two optional additions to strengthen the Convention. One protocol required governments to increase the minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces from 15 years and to ensure that members of that armed force under the age of 18 are not taken as a direct part in armed conflict.

The other protocol provides detailed requirements for governments to end the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. It also protects children from being used for non-military purposes – such as other forms of forced labour, illegal adoption and organ donation.






RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



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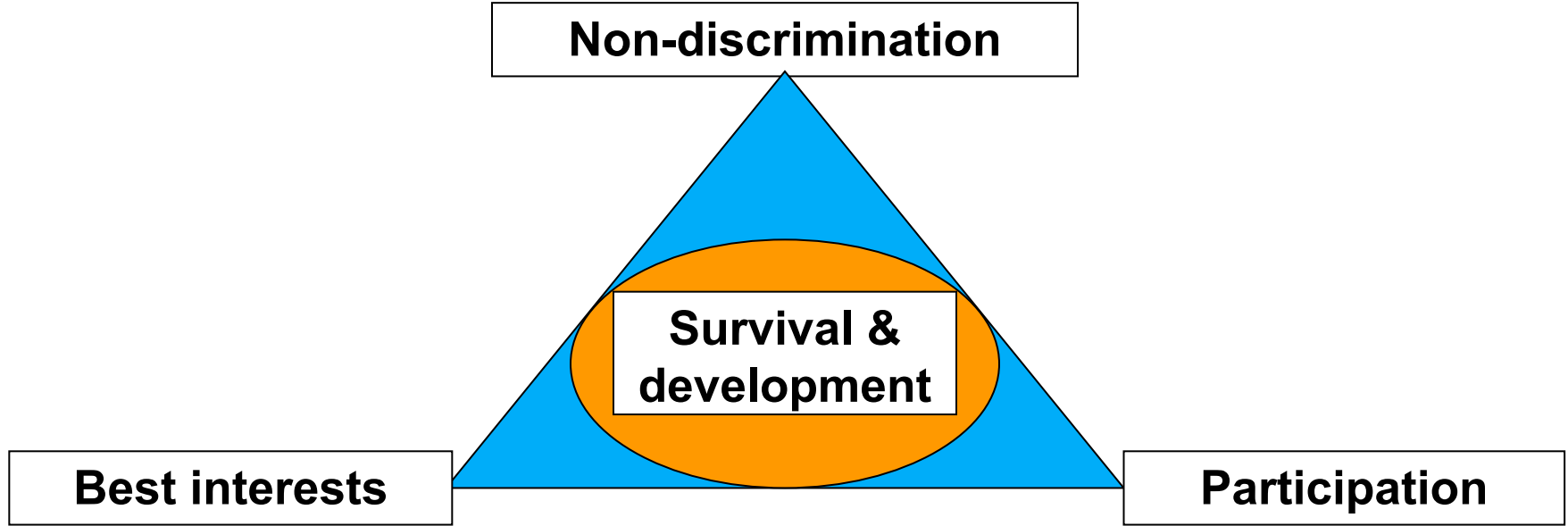
Innocenti Report Card 7: An Overview of child well-being in rich countries

In the latest report, the UK came last with regards to children's well-being.

The UNCRC goes beyond basic human rights and the articles outlined are International law.

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/files/documents/d-3248-Key-findings.pdf>

FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR A CHILD RIGHTS BASED APPROACH





WORKING WITH VALUES

- What are your own values?
- What are the values of Foulds?
- What would you see, hear and experience in school that would communicate these values?
- Can you find article numbers that match with these values?