

Cleves Cross is a Rights Respecting School. A Rights Respecting School is where we all respect each other as individuals and give consideration to other in our local and global communities.

We were awarded The Rights Respecting Schools Award (level 1) in May 2011, followed by Level 2 in March 2012. UNICEF recognised our achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights, but also models rights and behaving respectfully in all its relationships between teachers/adults and pupils, between adults and between pupils.

Rules or Charters?

We began our journey, what seems like a long time ago now, by agreeing whole class charters. Here at school we do not have school rules, but instead we have whole-school charters and class charters to help our school be a safe and fair place to be. Each class has their own class charter that incorporates those rights from the CRC that the children feel are most important to them. Each class charter is signed by each child and adults to acknowledge ownership. The charters outline the relevant rights related to activities or learning, and alongside each one are the provisions made for all children in school to access the right. Also included are the roles of the adults who are the 'duty-bearers' to help the children access the right. These charters can be seen displayed in all classrooms and around school and are regularly revisited and reviewed. Why not have a look for yourself the next time you visit us. We would love to see you!

Lunchtime and Playtime Charters

Every half term the entire school meet in team colour groups and explore issues relating to the CRC. We have talked about article 24 (Health and health services): Children have the right to good quality health care – the best health care possible – to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay healthy. We decided that we needed a lunchtime charter here in school that was directly linked to this article. Each group discussed the article and we all agreed the final charter (which is on display for everyone to follow – and we all try our best to do this!)

We also discussed article 31 (Leisure, play and culture): Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities. As we no longer have school rules, we decided that we needed a special playtime charter that would keep us all happy and safe during break times. These charters are also displayed around school and regularly revisited.

Rights Respecting Ambassadors

At the beginning of each academic year the children in each class vote for a girl and a boy to represent their class as Rights Respecting Ambassadors. This is an important position within school, alongside our school council members and Eco representatives to ensure our children enjoy their right to be listened to in our school community. They represent the school at many events and take a big part in campaigning and other events.

Rights Respecting Steering Group – still room for more parents!

Our RR Steering Group isn't just for teachers: it's for everyone to attend! In our group we have Parents, Governors, our PCSO, Ferryhill Residents Association members, Teaching Assistants, Lunchtime Supervisors and children. These meetings are usually held every term and last no longer than an hour. If you feel that you could spare a little time to come along and support us we would love to see you.

Many thanks for reading
Cleves Cross Rights Respecting Ambassadors