



Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Dear Parent / Guardian,

At Thomas Russell Junior School, we focus on every aspect of a child's development including their well-being. As part of our school's aims to promote a happy and successful school, we are working towards recognition as a '**Rights Respecting School**'. This is an award which is given to schools on behalf of UNICEF.



UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

The '**Rights Respecting School**' award will help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens both in school, in the wider community and in building their knowledge and understanding of the wider world. By learning about their rights our pupils, your children, also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others i.e. their responsibilities.

Our pupils are encouraged to reflect on how their behaviour and actions affect those around them. This allows us to maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all, both in the classroom and around the school. In preparation for the launch of the award, and in consultation with pupils and staff at all levels, our school rules and expectations will be reviewed this month, as we formulate class charters and consider how we can best get along in a respectful and harmonious environment. Ultimately we want our children to follow rules because they understand this is the correct and responsible way to behave rather than for fear of consequence or repercussion.

Pupils already develop their understanding of rights in school through our programme of assemblies. These are available to view on the website and include a great range of topics already such as Rights and Responsibilities, Getting on and Falling Out, Every Child needs a Teacher, All Different - All the Same, Random Acts of Kindness, Global Citizens, Families, It's OK to ask for help etc. We would like to share our work with you in greater detail. We would appreciate if you could spend some time over the next few weeks reading through the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is printed on the back of this letter and discussing them as a family and how they guide your decisions and actions.

We really hope that you will feel able to support us and your child as we work towards our goal of being a 'Rights Respecting School'. If you would like more information about the work of UNICEF or a Rights Respecting School please visit: www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa.

Best wishes

Mrs S Sharpe

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"I'VE GOT RIGHTS!"

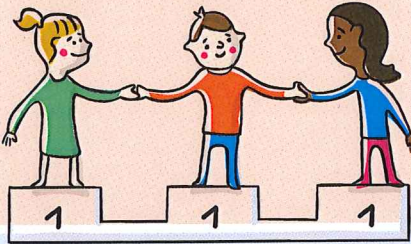


SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD In Youth-Friendly Language

1 Everyone under 18 has these rights.

2 ALL CHILDREN have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor.



3 When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

4 The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

5 Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

6 You have the right to be alive.

7 You have the right to a name, and this should be officially recognized by the government. You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

8 You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.



9 You have the right to live with your parent(s), unless it is bad for you. You have the right to live with a **FAMILY** that cares for you.

10 If you live in a different country than your parents do, you have the right to be together in the same place.

11 You have the right to be protected from kidnapping.



12 You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

13 You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

14 You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

15 You have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

16 You have the right to privacy.

17 You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

18 You have the right to be raised by your parent(s) if possible.

19 You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

20 You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.



21 You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

22 You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

23 You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.



24 You have the right to the best **HEALTH** care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

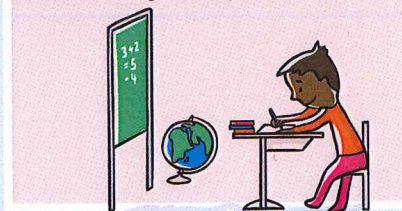
25 If you live in care or in other situations away from home, you have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate.



26 You have the right to **HELP** from the government if you are poor or in need.

27 You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do.

28 You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.



29 Your **EDUCATION** should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

30 You have the right to practice your own culture, language and religion - or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

31 You have the right to play and rest.



32 You have the right to protection from work that harms you, and is bad for your health and education. If you work, you have the right to be safe and paid fairly.

33 You have the right to protection from harmful drugs and from the drug trade.

34 You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

35 No one is allowed to kidnap or sell you.

36 You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

37 No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

38 You have the right to **PROTECTION** and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.

39 You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

40 You have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the justice system that respects your rights.

41 If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this Convention, those laws should apply.



42 You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.



43 to 54 These articles explain how governments and international organizations like SOS Children's Villages and UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected.

SOS Children's Villages thanks UNICEF for kindly permitting the use of their youth-friendly text for this educational poster.

unicef

For more information visit
www.sos-childrensvillages.org



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES