

1st March 2022

Whinstone Primary School receives prestigious UNICEF UK Gold Award

Whinstone Primary School is to be awarded Gold by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School programme for a second time.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. There are over 600 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have received Gold.

Headteacher Mike Poppitt said: "I am immensely proud that Whinstone has continued with this Gold Award from UNICEF UK. It reflects how the children, staff and whole school community put children's rights at the heart of our school."

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. Following the reaccreditation visit, the assessors noted the following strengths:

- Children, who clearly know that they have rights, understand the nature of rights, and are committed to helping to realise these for other children locally and globally.
- A strong commitment to children's rights and to RRSa from staff at all levels that ties into the ethos and culture of the school.
- A caring and inclusive ethos where staff and students ensure that everyone particularly those with learning differences or a disability feel supported and fully involved in school life.
- Children have an awareness of environmental issues and how they can positively impact the world around them.

The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. Currently, it works with nearly 5,000 primary schools, secondary schools, schools for children and young people with special educational needs and pupil referral units across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Schools have reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, relationships and well-being by enhancing pupils' self-esteem, leading to less truancy and bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.

