



# Portlethen Academy Rights Respecting Schools Group

The Rights Respecting Schools Group run regular meetings in school with pupils and staff to ensure that young people at Portlethen Academy are aware of their rights and are getting them. We are working for UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award which provides a framework to make sure schools are "rights respecting".

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child gives a list of rights that all children have. The Convention is now recognised as law in Scotland. The rights are there to make sure children are happy, healthy, safe and fulfilling their potential.

The Rights Respecting Schools Group in Portlethen Academy have identified 10 key rights we think are relevant to young people in school. Here are some of them:

**Article 12** – Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously

**Article 24** – Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy

**Article 28** – Every child has the right to an education. Secondary education must be available for every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity.

**Article 29** – Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, their parents, their own and others cultures and the environment.

# Work of the Rights Respecting Schools Group



The Rights Respecting Schools Group have been running for over a year now and we are currently at the **Recognition of Commitment** stage. We have been working through the Level 1 Action plan over the past year and have done the following:

- Gave a presentation to staff during a staff meeting in school
- Gave a presentation to parents during a Parent Council meeting
- Led assemblies for all pupils about rights
- Identified key rights for us to focus on in school
- Led a transition workshop to primary school pupils to highlight how rights are met in school when pupils join Portlethen Academy
- Developed a powerpoint highlighting key rights
- Developing 3 values based on UNCRC – “learn and improve”; “Get involved” “Think about the consequences”
- Put up information around the school where rights are met
- Developed a short movie promoting rights and values
- Promoted UNCRC and values on school website and noticeboards

We have regular meetings on average once a month and are currently recruiting for more members. We meet in room 1F9 on Thursdays at 1pm. The group is led by Mrs Garrett.

***You are welcome to come along to our meetings in school!***



# Portlethen Academy's Key Values

These values were devised by members of the school's Rights Respecting Schools Group. They aim to embody the articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also form part of Portlethen Academy's commitment towards "Getting it Right for Every Child" through providing support and raising aspiration within school.

## Value 1

### ***"Learn and improve"***

Everyone should be given opportunities to improve and achieve. We want everyone at Portlethen Academy to be the best they can be!



## Value 2

### ***"Get involved"***

Everyone should be given opportunities to participate fully in school life. Working with others can improve learning and the life of our school.



## Value 3

### ***"Think about the consequences"***

All our actions have consequences – positive and negative and they can affect our future and those around us. We need to always bear this in mind in what we do.



## What young people have said about the Rights Respecting Schools Award...

*Since learning what our rights really are it makes me more confident.*

*Now that we know our rights we can see we need responsibilities too.*

*Inequality and poverty are about the denial of human rights*



## What teachers have said about the Rights Respecting Schools Award...

*RRSA has helped improve relationships between young people.*

*Young people grow to expect to have a say in their own learning. They want to get involved more.*

For more information please go to the school website and follow links to the group or go to [www.unicef.org.uk](http://www.unicef.org.uk)