



# Westerton Primary School

## Rights Policy



## Rationale – Why Rights Matter at Westerton



At Westerton Primary, every child is taught explicitly about rights. Children learn from P1 that rights help to keep us safe, happy, healthy and included. They also help us to grow and learn the best we can. Our school is a Rights Respecting School, which means we use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to guide how we treat each other and how we learn together.

Everyone in our school, children and adults, works together to make sure children's rights are understood, talked about, and respected every day. We learn about our rights in class, at assemblies, and through special activities. We also talk about how rights connect to fairness, kindness, respect and listening to others. By learning about our rights and the rights of children all over the world, we are learning how to be caring, thoughtful and responsible citizens (locally and globally).

At Westerton Primary School, children have a voice. We have class charters, class meetings, committees and leadership roles to help us make decisions and share ideas. We want all children to feel included and know they belong.

### UNCRC and 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 (UNCRC). These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. The convention sets out the rights of children in 54 articles. These basic rights encompass survival, protection, development and participation. In March 2021, MSPs voted unanimously for the UNCRC Bill to become law in Scotland, meaning public authorities must comply with the UNCRC.

*'The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) emphasizes that children have a right to express their views and have them considered in matters affecting them. This is enshrined in Article 12, which ensures that children have a voice and their opinions are valued. This right applies at all stages of a child's life, including during family life, schooling, and in legal proceedings.'* **UNCRC**

These articles apply to our Rights Policy:



## Aims

At Westerton Primary School we aim to:

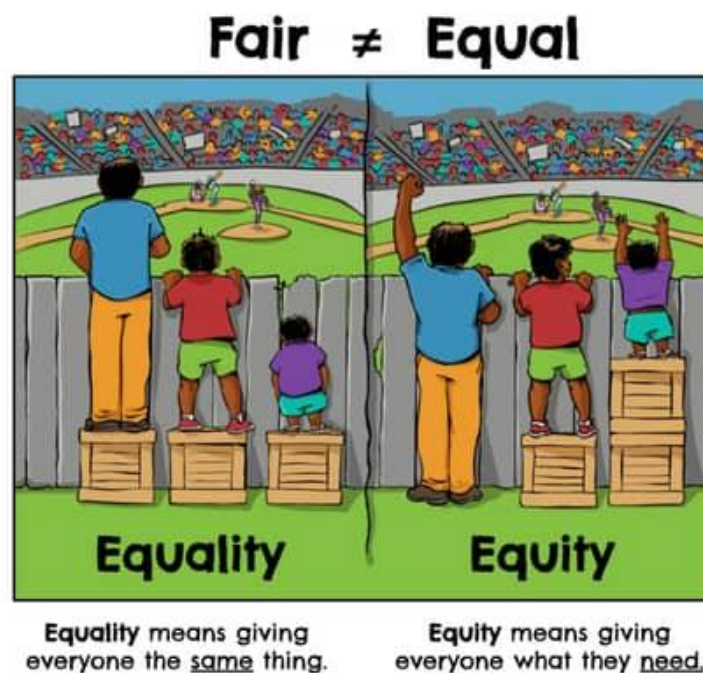
- Embed the principles of the UNCRC into our school's ethos, curriculum, and daily practices.
- Promote a culture of respect, dignity, and equality among all members of the school community.
- Empower pupils to actively participate in decisions affecting their lives and education.
- Develop global citizens and raise awareness of social justice issues.

### **The Scottish government says:**

*'Learning about children's rights can empower children and young people to be active citizens in their school, local community and across the world. Knowing and understanding children's rights is not enough; children and young people also need to be supported to develop skills of talking, listening, empathy, research, debate and negotiation so that they can claim their entitlement to dignity, or share their learning in a rights-based manner with others. All children have the same rights and may need support to develop the skills that will allow them to respect everyone's rights.'*

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-child/what-is-my-child-entitled-to/children-s-rights>

Our approach to Rights is aligned with East Dunbartonshire Council's Education Service Plan, Closing the Attainment Gap, Improving Health and Wellbeing, Getting it Right for Every Child and Delivering Excellence and Equity in Education.





## Class & School Charters

At Westerton Primary School our class and school charters are created for the following reasons:

- To support a positive learning environment for children.
- To help to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) clearer to both adults and pupils and how this links to school.
- To establish and build shared values and relationships for creating a rights respecting ethos in the classroom.

Class charters are created by each class at the beginning of the school year. Class charters incorporate elements from our whole school charter, and are also used by some year groups and committees to ensure that the UNCRC is embedded in pupil voice at every stage of the school. While our school charter showcases the work of our RRS committee

At Westerton Primary School our charters have child friendly descriptions of rights (linked to specific articles from the UNCRC) as well as actions for children, to guide them in how to respect the rights of themselves and others.



## Our School Community

At Westerton Primary School explicit links are made to the UNCRC in our Vision, Values and Aims

- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC.
- Staff planning reflects links to the UNCRC, with links being made to lessons across the curriculum
- Conflicts and behaviour management are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems, with reference to UNCRC.
- Pupils opinions are sought, encouraged and respected in all areas of the school's work.
- Pupil leadership is an integral part of the school's approach. Children are given opportunities to lead aspects of school life through a wide range of committees and groups, each with their own charter

## Vision, Values and Aims

At Westerton Primary School our **vision** is: *Together, we create a safe, happy and nurturing environment where every child grows, learns and thrives.*

Our school's **values** are: *Be kind, be happy, believe in yourself, and achieve your best.*

Our school's aims **are**: *To be a welcoming and inclusive community where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to learn. To promote teamwork, celebrate diversity, encourage responsibility, and uphold children's rights in all aspects of school life.*



WESTERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

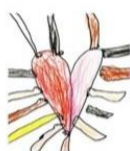


### **Our School Vision**

Together, we create a safe, happy and nurturing environment where every child grows, learns and thrives.

### **Our Values**

Be kind, be happy, believe in yourself, and achieve your best.



Be Kind



Be Happy



Believe in Yourself



Achieve Your Best

### **Our Aims**

To be a welcoming and inclusive community where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to learn. To promote teamwork, celebrate diversity, encourage responsibility, and uphold children's rights in all aspects of school life.

### **Integration of Rights Across the Curriculum**

In Westerton Primary School we incorporate rights-based education across the curriculum, ensuring that pupils understand their rights and responsibilities.

This includes:

- Embedding rights education into lesson plans and classroom discussions.
- Utilising resources that highlight global issues and the importance of human rights.
- Encouraging critical thinking about social justice and equality through lessons, assemblies and working with charities and third party organisations.
- Opportunities within teaching and learning to reflect upon which rights are applicable.

### **School Ethos and Environment**

Westerton Primary School's environment reflects our commitment to children's rights by:

- Displaying the UNCRC articles prominently throughout the school.
- Establishing class charters that outline agreed-upon rights and responsibilities.
- Promoting positive relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.



### **Participation and Empowerment**

At Westerton Primary School we value pupil voice and encourage active participation through:

- Regular class meetings to discuss issues and gather feedback.
- Involvement in decision-making processes affecting school policies and practices.
- Opportunities to engage in community projects and global initiatives.

### **Staff Training and Development**

Westerton Primary School's staff members receive ongoing training and opportunities to collaborate to:

- Understand and uphold the principles of the UNCRC.
- Implement rights-based approaches in teaching and interactions with pupils.
- Recognise and address any infringements of children's rights promptly.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At Westerton Primary School we regularly assess the effectiveness of our rights-based approach by:

- Gathering feedback from pupils, staff, and parents/carers.
- Reviewing policies and practices to ensure alignment with UNCRC principles.
- Participating in accreditation processes such as the Rights Respecting Schools Award.



## **Testimonials**

*'I have loved teaching Rights and Global Citizenship with the children... The children really enjoy learning all about their Rights and love learning about diverse cultures around the world. Since embedding Rights within the school, I have found that the children want to learn more about global issues.'*

**Miss L McNeill, class teacher.**

*'It has been inspiring to see our pupils embrace rights based learning, it highlights the ways in which their classroom learning links to Rights and Global Goals'*

**Mrs A Archibald, class teacher.**

*At Westerton Primary School, Article 12 of the UNCRC (respect for children's views) is not only a part of our school, class and committee charters, but is supported through all the work in the school. Pupils are involved in making decisions at all levels and through this are able to have a positive impact on the way in which we learn in Westerton Primary School.*

**Pupil voice summary.**

## **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

Westerton Primary School is committed to ongoing reflection and improvement in our rights-based practices.

We aim to:

- Stay informed about developments in children's rights education.
- Engage with external partners and organisations to enhance our approach.
- Celebrate successes and share best practices within and beyond our school community.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in promoting a rights-respecting culture at Westerton Primary School

## **Useful Links to Learn More about Rights**

Here are some links where you and your family can learn more about children's rights:

- Child-Friendly UNCRC (Your Rights Explained Simply) <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rights-of-the-child/>
- Summary of UNCRC articles: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/01/Summary-of-the-UNCRC.pdf>
- Booklet for parents, carers and family members <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/news-and-events/united-nations-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child-uncrc-booklet-for-parents-carers-and-family-members/>
- UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/about-us-new>
- UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>
- Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/> This site helps explain your rights and how to speak up if something isn't right.
- WOSDEC – Learning About Global Issues <https://wosdec.org.uk/> Learn how we can make a fairer, kinder world together.
- The Promise Scotland <https://thepromise.scot/> This tells adults how to help make sure children feel loved and cared for.

**Date: 2025**