



# Balmuilty Primary School Rights Respecting Schools Policy



## Rationale

The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. At Balmuilty, we put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our school's ethos and culture to continually improve wellbeing and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. We ensure that children's rights are promoted and realised, with all pupils and staff committed to this goal.

We work hard to ensure that Balmuilty is a place where everyone can feel valued and confident in themselves and where everyone is encouraged to use their voice. Rights are universal and cannot be taken away. The main responsibility for ensuring that all children enjoy their rights, lies with adults, who are referred to as the duty bearers.

## 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 Scottish Government states that:

*'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.'*

## Aims

In Balmuirdy Primary we aim to:

- Recognise that children learn best when they feel safe and happy and their needs are being met
- Put learning at the heart of everything we do
- Develop children's personal skills along with learning
- Support children to make the most of their skills and talents and fulfil their potential
- Provide an education based on transferrable skills that can take children anywhere they want to go
- Work in partnership with parents, agencies and the wider community to meet the needs of learners

## Balmuirdy School Values

At Balmuirdy our school values are interconnected with children's rights. The promotion of these values and the respect of these associated rights underpin our school ethos.

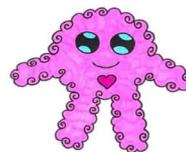
### Honesty

*Article 12 - The right to an opinion and to be listened to*



### Kindness

*Article 19- The right to be protected and be safe*



### Respect

*Article 29- The right to learn and respect others*



### Equality

*Article 2- The right to protection against discrimination*



### Do your best

*Article 13- The right to find out about things and be the best you can be*



### Teamwork

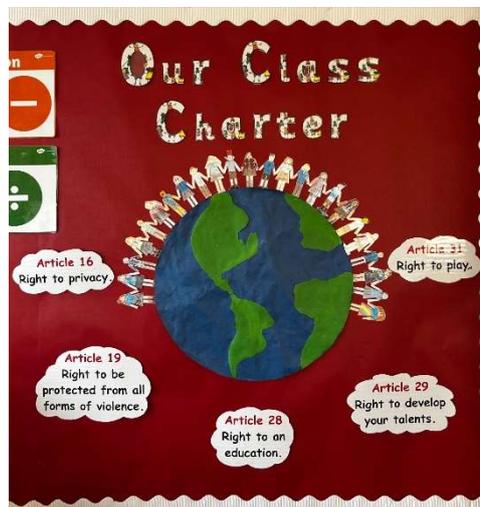
*Article 15- The right to work with others*



## Class Charters

The UNCRC rights of the child are taught explicitly at the start of each school year. Each class will then use their knowledge and understanding to design an individual class charter. The aim of these charters are to ensure that the UNCRC is embedded at every stage of the school and to help -

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



All charters will have –

- Child friendly descriptions of rights (linked to specific articles from the UNCRC)
- Actions for children to respect the rights of others and themselves
- Actions for adults as Duty Bearers to ensure that rights are being upheld and respected

## Whole School Community

The UNCRC provides an important basis for supporting children and young people to flourish in all aspects of their lives and to develop and benefit from the universal human values of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity. These values are integral to our school and we seek to promote and uphold them by ensuring that -

- Explicit links are made to our Vision, Values and Aims with the UNCRC, along with links to our school behaviour code
- Displays are explicitly linked to the UNCRC

- Staff planning reflects links to the UNCRC, with links being embedded in year planners as well as individual curricular area planners
- Conflicts are resolved using restorative approaches where children are empowered to seek solutions to problems, with reference to UNCRC
- All members of the community are encouraged to be ambassadors for children's rights, and information is shared with all stakeholders
- 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



### **Pupil Voice**

Article 12 of the UNCRC (respect for children's views) is not only a part of our whole-school and class charters, but is supported through all 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 Balmuildy. There are a wide range of committees, pupils are involved in self-evaluation and are given choice in their learning through pupil-enquiry and play approaches. Our Rights Ambassadors shared some of their views -

"I really have enjoyed being a Rights Ambassador and teaching others about our rights when we do our assemblies."

"I was really proud to be selected as a Rights Ambassador because I realise how important it is."

"It is so important that we all know about rights, especially when you look at what is happening in the world just now."

"I like that I can help my class learn about things like the right to learn and to be safe. I also like that by understanding this we also learn that following rules such as being kind and helpful makes the class a good place to be."

"I have learned so much being a Rights Ambassador. I am really proud of myself and really want to do this again."

"Rights are important for everyone. I am glad that I am able to share and celebrate this."



**Useful Links -**

[UNICEF Rights of the Child](#)  
[Rights Respecting Schools](#)