

HOW RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE
IMPLEMENTED IN OUR SCHOOL,
YSGOL RHAGORIAETH



Niall Roche - 1802784

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ECES4005

DID YOU KNOW

CHILDREN HAVE

RIGHTS?

Within schools' children have a number of rights that need to be followed with complete care. We here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth, take great care with this and believe that every child is entitled to their equal rights as much as an adult is also. Therefore, it is very important to us to ensure that every child is developing within a positive environment where their rights are assured.

'Every Child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status'

As stated by the UNCRC, UNICEF (2020)

The statement above emphasises the point that equal rights are essential to a child's learning. We believe that when

all children have all of their rights followed to a great depth, a healthier environment can be created for the children to learn in. This will lead to a better wellbeing for the children in the long run. Research conducted by The Children's Society (2020) shows that children should have strong relationships to gain a more positive well-being. By supporting the rights of the child, we can ensure that strong pupil to teacher relationships will be built across the school. This will ensure a happy learning environment for everyone.



Implementation of Rights at

Ysgol Rhagoriaeth.

Rights have to be implemented correctly to have a successful impact on the environment of a school setting. We here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth strive to achieve this. As stated by Covrell et al (2010), all teachers must be fully committed to making rights a high priority in schools. Teachers being fully understanding of rights will aid the immersive environment of a classroom, creating a positive environment for all. These rights will be especially followed in the new Welsh Curriculum of 2022. Within this new curriculum, pupil voice will be a major factor in aiding the development of a positive learning environment therefore meaning better wellbeing for all children.

Here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth, we have started implementing the new curriculum of 2022 early to make children and teachers aware of the inevitable changes to education that are ahead of us. We have already started implementing pupil voice by asking the pupils what and how they would like to learn in the upcoming months. This will bring the levels of participation up drastically in the classroom. Education Scotland (2018) states

that increased participation with pupils can help to gain better pupil-teacher within the school. We believe that this is an important part of a school as it creates a happier environment within a school therefore meaning better attainment levels in the long run. A study by the NASP (2016) states that when **'students feel connected, accepted, and respected—heavily influences students' academic achievement, mental health, and overall school success.'** We believe that this statement is true, and we strive to achieve this here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth.

Staff and their role with

Children's Rights.

We believe that the implementation of Children's Rights in our school stems directly from the staff themselves. Children should be taught their rights directly and should know what they are in title to at every moment of their time in education. We use a resource created by Oxfam Education to promote children's rights to our pupils. As stated by Oxfam Education (2020) the resource includes many different case studies and engrossing activities to keep the pupils fully engaged whilst learning about the importance of their rights.

Everyone at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth can reassure you that your child

will be taught their rights to a great extent.

'We must shout out and let children know they have a right to be safe, a right to learn, a right to be loved, to own their own property.'

TES (2018)



Barrance (2018) (P.G 4) cited by WISERD states that surveys conducted in wales show that children do not believe their views are listened to enough. We here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth will ensure your children are listened to at great depth.

About the UNCRC and how it applies.

What is the UNCRC?

As stated by Save The Children (2020), the UNCRC is a 'legally-binding international agreement setting out the **civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights** of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.' This agreement has been used for a number of years. The UNCRC is involved in 196 countries across the world with only one country still to agree.

Save the Children (2020)



The UNCRC contains 54 articles that describe children's rights extensively and how children should be treated across schools and in everyday life across the world.

We follow these articles **fully** at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth to make sure that all pupils are treated fairly at all times. We will also make sure that all pupils are informed on their rights as they are entitled too completely.

'Children are defined as individuals, rights bearers and active contributors exercising their rights' Winter (2011).

The quotation completely embodies how we here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth present children's rights across the classrooms.

The Articles we Implement

Extensively.

Everyone here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth strives to implement all 54 articles of the UNCRC into everyday school life. We believe that all of the articles are equally important. Although these are our views, some articles are implemented more frequently than others. Over the next few pages there will be a showcase of the most frequent examples and how they are implemented specifically. As stated by Save the Children (2020), these articles will showcase a child's basic fundamental rights. For example, Protection from violence, abuse or neglect and the right to express their opinions and views and their right to be listened to. All of the rights provided in the following writing are from A Summary of the Unconvention on the Rights of the Child UNICEF (2020)

Article 31.

Article 31 ensures that all children have the right to play, relax and take part in a range of cultural activities. At Ysgol Rhagoriaeth we ensure that all children partake in play and many different types of cultural activities. For example, our school ensures that children have 3 play breaks within a day where children can play and do what they like within their means

As stated by Sharma-Brymer and Bland (2016), play helps a child's emotional wellbeing. A healthy emotional wellbeing will lead to a happier pupil and therefore a better learning environment for all. We also believe that children should partake in a number of cultural activities. This is because these activities broaden a child's knowledge and help them gauge a broader understanding of new subjects.

An example of our cultural activities includes trips to museum's and places like Castell

Henllys. We believe that these types of activities can aid a child's learning and help them gauge an understanding of a historic and cultural view. We personally believe that the trips the pupils will partake in will also encourage play greatly. Although outdoor cultural activities follow the UNCRC's article 31, they also come with many other benefits for the pupils as well. As stated by the National Justice Museum (2020), historic and cultural trips help engagement levels within classrooms and increased engagement could result in children understanding their rights further.

Article 13.

Article 13 is in place to make sure that all children are allowed to put across their thoughts and feelings freely with no problems. We at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth, believe that this is a very important article for all to follow.

Our pupils are the future of our planet. We want to ensure that they will all grow up to feel like they can deliver their own personal opinions with no hesitation. As a school, we decided that the best way to implement this Article was to create an efficient school council. We have created a system in which all children will have their turn to voice their views in a school council meeting. Rest assured, all pupils' opinions will be looked at and discussed in meetings to ensure that Article 13 is followed abundantly. This article will be followed strictly in the new changes coming to the curriculum in 2022. As stated in a report by Estyn (2018), 'Pupil voice shapes the curriculum' We believe that all pupils learn in vastly different ways. In result of this we know that children should be leaders of their own learning. Ysgol Rhagoriaeth endeavours to achieve this. We hold monthly pupil voice sessions to ensure

that all are learning to their full capability. This will include the pupils choosing their own topics to learn about and creating their own activities to aid them in their learning. We will also ask pupils to feedback their opinions on certain tasks and how they were executed. This is to ensure that their opinions and views will be fully respected. As stated in a research report by Robinson (2014) 1,149 primary school pupils were asked about their experiences of their learning within their school and how it can be improved. The report stated that pupils notice the difference in their learning when they have positive teacher-pupil relationships in schools. We at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth will ensure that all pupils will be asked about their learning experiences monthly and how they personally believe that they can be improved.

Article 2.

Article 2 is a highly important article in every walk of life that every individual should follow. This article protects all children to safeguard them from discrimination. This means that no child should be discriminated against because of their race, gender, religion, disability, or sexuality. We believe that everyone should be treated exactly the same as each other. Ysgol Rhagoriaeth fully strives to ensure that social inclusion is a massive driving force in our education system. Social inclusion can aid in raising attainment levels in schools. The 'Through the removal of barriers to engagement and achievement young people would be able to participate, engage and succeed in various aspects of mainstream life' As stated by the National College for School Leadership (2007) (P.G 2)

We believe that article 2 attempts to lower the amount of social exclusion within schools. Social exclusion is when a pupil is excluded as they are from a minority social group or even in poverty. Social exclusion stops certain people from 'engaging fully in community/social life' WHO (2020). We do our utmost to ensure that pupils do not experience social exclusion at our school. As stated by Lindsay et al (2011) (P.G 101) 'Children reported that teachers' attitudes toward children with disabilities often influenced the social exclusion experienced by peers.' This is completely unacceptable as we know that all children should be accepted for who they are by their peers and especially their teachers. As stated by Owen (2018) social exclusion in schools can not only lead to problems within schools but also in later life as well. We believe that no child should face social

exclusion therefore we follow article 2 strictly.

Article 28 and 29

Article 28 emphasises that all children have the right for an education meaning that all forms of education should be available for every child. We here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth welcome any child to learn freely at our school.

Discipline is a huge part of a child's upbringing and it should be done in the correct way at all times. We believe that no child should have their rights taken away as punishment for any action. As cited by UNICEF (2020) The 1990 World Declaration on Education for All expresses that all children should have the right to learn in schools as they need to develop skills for their future lives. As well as skills, pupils need to learn basic values and ethos that will guide them through life treating every being with respect. Education

Safeguarding

improves the quality of children's lives in the long run and that is what we are trying to achieve at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth. Article 29 expresses that education must be used to develop a child's skills, personality and abilities. The article also states that children should learn to respect their immediate family and the cultures around them. As the environment is a very relevant topic at this moment in time, it is key that the children learn the importance of this. We at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth will ensure that all pupils will learn about the current problems surrounding the environment and global warming. We will ensure this by making sure that all pupils have the right to partake in educational visits to various environments.



Within Wales, safeguarding is a huge aspect of education. In short, safeguarding is the procedure to ensure that all children's welfare is promoted. Children in Wales (2019). Within our school, we have a responsibility to ensure that all children are safe and out of danger at all times. We have employed safeguarding individuals to make sure that all children are protected at all times. If we believe that a child is in danger or in need, we will do our utmost to ensure that their problems are resolved, and they are helped through their struggles. NSPCC Learning (2020) states that all children regardless of their disability, age, gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all harm. We here at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth ensure that all children are safe from all children/adults that could cause them harm.

Rights Respecting School Award.

UNICEF have many ways to promote the UNCRC and their rights to schools. When a school abides by the 54 articles substantially and effectively, they are awarded with a RRSA. Which is the Rights Respecting School Award as stated by UNICEF (2020). The RRSA is an award that the pupils of schools and teachers can work in collaboration to achieve. The award is received when the rights of a child are put in the direct curriculum and taught appropriately to all. According to UNICEF (2020), 76% of headteachers within schools that have gained the award state that the award has aided in the decreasing levels of bullying and exclusions across the school. The award expresses the fact that teachers at the schools with the award have implemented rights correctly into schools. When the rights are implemented successfully, the teacher to pupil relationships will thrive and become more positive. These positive relationships will lead to higher attainment and engagement levels in the long run as children will become more confident to contact their teachers on any queries or problems within school, creating a more positive environment overall.

We at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth will be aiming to achieve this award in the coming years with our teachers implanting all rights discussed in this pamphlet within the curriculum. UNICEF offer a course for staff of schools to attend to ensure that they

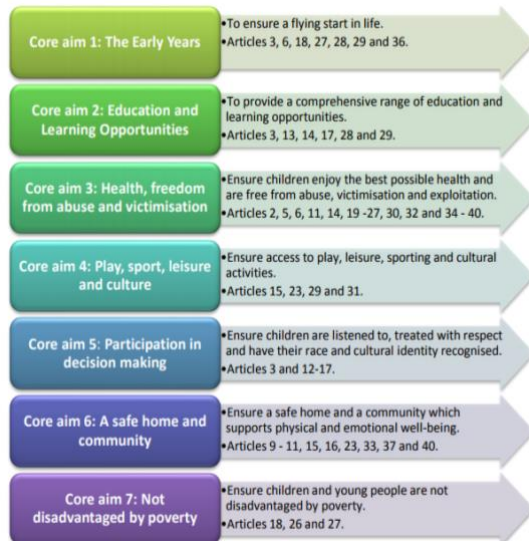
implement rights into schools accurately. All of our staff will be required to attend this course in the coming year in order to aim for the RSSA award. We will ensure that all staff members are aware of the UNCRC articles and the aims for the RSSA award.



**We put your children's
best interests first at all
times!**

Welsh Government Aims and Problems that Could Arise

The Welsh Government have come up with 7 core aims to implement specific articles from the UNCRC. These aims are all listed below with the specific articles that are linked.



Core 1: Ensure a flying start in life, make sure all children are treated respectfully. Make sure the best interests of the child are followed.

Core 2: Education and learning opportunities. As stated earlier, article 28-29 are the rights of education and the goals of education.

Core 3: Health, freedom from abuse and victimisation. Making sure children have a brighter future.

Core aim 4: Play, Sport, Leisure and culture. The importance of play and freedom. Children have the right to play and relax.

Core aim 5: Participation and Decision Making. Making sure all children are listened to. School council and participation.

Core aim 6: A Safe Home and Community. Making sure school environment is safe for all. Safeguard to ensure children are safe even at home. Well-being important.

Core aim 7: Ensure children are not Disadvantaged by Poverty. Make sure that social exclusion does not occur. Welsh Government (2015) states, one in three children live in poverty.

We at Ysgol Rhagoriaeth ensure that all these 7 aims will be followed and enforced by all staff throughout school.

Final Words from Ysgol Rhagoriaeth.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this pamphlet of information. We do ensure that we will stick to every word within this pamphlet to make sure that your child's education is fully implemented with rights.

If you have any queries be sure to get in touch with anyone at the school.

In conclusion, our aim this year is to achieve the RSSA award to make sure that rights are implemented

correctly across the school.

We ensure that all articles of the UNCRC will be taken into account and implemented into our school's curriculum directly.

We also ensure that all members of staff will be up to date with our aims.

Thank you all once again.

Niall Roche, Ysgol
Rhagoriaeth.

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