

THOMAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children's Rights and Responsibilities



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Welcome to Thomas Primary School's Monthly Leaflet! Our main topic which we will focus on are Children's Rights and Responsibilities. We would like to assure you that we are here to support yourselves and your children through their learning journey and our number one priority is making sure everyone is safe and happy throughout their educational journey with ourselves.

EXCITING NEWS: At our school, we are currently working closely with Unicef (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) where they offer a Rights Respecting Schools Award. Unicef works with schools in the UK to create a safe and inspiring place for children to learn, where they are respected, their talents nurture and they are able to thrive. The award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active adults (Unicef, 2019).

We feel very proud to announce that we have recently achieved the award and will continue, as a School, to go above and beyond for our children.

Here are a handful of topics expected to find throughout our leaflet:

- Topic 1: What are Rights and Responsibilities?
- Topic 2: Our take on implementing children's Rights and Responsibilities
- Topic 3: School Uniform
- Topic 4: Learning in the classroom
- Topic 5: Religion and Beliefs
- Topic 6: Safeguarding
- Topic 7: Using the internet/Cyberbullying
- Topic 8: School Meals/Breakfast/After School
- Topic 9: Disabilities and Support
- Summary

Topic 1 – What are Rights and Responsibilities?

“A right is a choice to make your own opinion and entitlement to things such as education, religion and freedom of speech. Responsibilities are duties or something an individual should do such as following the law and rules” (twinkl, 2019).

“The aim of rights and responsibilities is to help children achieve their potential and develop into responsible adults. It teaches children to learn how to respect others, think critically and make informed decisions” (twinkl, 2019).



Topic 2 – Our take on implementing children's Rights and Responsibilities

Here at Thomas Primary School, we make sure that we implement your child's rights as best as we can. One example of this is that we hold classroom conversations in one big group with the children weekly. Every Friday, our Teachers sit down with the children in their class and play a game we have made in order to help our children understand their rights in a fun and exciting way! During the game, we make sure all children can get involved, where they have a chance to go over our week in school to point out things they have enjoyed and if there is anything they may like to change or include. We have created a page on our school website where you can see some of the children's amazing and creative ideas of what they think about Rights and Responsibilities. You can see these by visiting: www.ThomasPrimarySchoolWales.school.net let us know what you think!

“Children, like other minority groups, lack a voice and have a right to be heard and their views taken into account. It is through working towards better understanding of the social condition of childhood that we can provide a firm basis for working towards implementation of their rights” (Mayall, 2000,p1).

Topic 3 – School Uniform

We would like to assure you that if there are any issues you may be facing and would like to personally speak to us regarding school uniform or any other topic, we are here as a support system for you.

We understand that school uniform can be stressful, which is why we have come up with a scheme to take some of the stress off yourselves. Here at Thomas Primary, we provide the uniform rather than attending a shop to do so, as we feel this takes one less stress off parents and carers who are unable to travel or find it difficult. We feel that it is easier to go to one place for all. We have made set days and

times throughout the term where parents and carers can come into the school to choose required uniform for their children. Do not worry, if you cannot make these times or are struggling to do so, do not hesitate on contacting us, as we can then make sure to have uniform waiting for yourselves. We do not feel that it is necessary to pay for the uniform yourselves, so have set up a fun way to raise money in order for us to do this for you. We will continue to host school fairs, where parents, carers and children can take part in fun stalls, games, raffles and activities ranging from 50p - £2 which all goes towards our uniform fund. We thank you for taking part with us and hope that we bring nothing but joy whilst doing so.

As you may already know, we like to send home a survey for parents, carers and children to look at together to make sure you as parents are happy with the uniform and styles provided as well as the child, as we feel it is very important for them to have their say too. Our typical school attire includes as follows:

- School jumpers
- School cardigans
- School polo shirts

- School shirts
- School shorts
- School trousers
- School skirts
- School sundresses
- PE kit

If you have any questions or queries in regard to School uniform, please do not hesitate on contacting us.



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“Children should have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account” (UNCRC, 2016).

Topic 4 – Learning in the classroom

“We like to make sure that all children understand the meaning behind their rights, making sure they are having their say when it comes to their education. At the level of the classroom, children’s rights education may be put into effect through:

- Integrating children’s rights into all teaching materials and curricula
- Ensuring that children are able to participate meaningfully in all aspects of classroom functioning
- Using teaching strategies such as role play, small group learning and project-based learning
- Creating and posting a chart of classroom rights and corresponding responsibilities at the

start of the school term with the input of students

- Using a self-assessment tool – i.e. asking the children where they may think they can improve and what can we do to help them do so” - (Montessori, 1949).

At Thomas Primary, we always make sure we are trying to the best of our ability to make sure the child is happy in all ways of learning. We always make sure to include group work as well as individual work, coming up with ideas and learning to listen to each other. By implementing children’s rights education into their learning can make such a positive difference to them as well as their teachers as it can guide us in the right direction to understanding their preferred way of learning.



Topic 5 – Safeguarding

“Safeguarding is the process of creating a safe environment for the whole younger generation, as well as protecting those children and young people who are vulnerable or have already been harmed” (Rights and Responsibilities Power Point, 2020).

“We all share a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, whether as a parent, or a family member, a friend or neighbour, an employer or as a paid or volunteer worker. All members of the community can help to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and should act to do so if they have concerns about a child’s welfare” (Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004).

At Thomas Primary, we take Safeguarding children very seriously. Our staff are fully trained and are fully aware what to do in an event where they may feel a child’s safety is at risk. We have a duty of care for all children and will make sure to act appropriately. We

have procedures for dealing with allegations and are fully trained in what to do if we receive an allegation or have any concerns.

Safeguarding helps to prevent impairment of a child’s health or development. We assure you that they receive safe and effective care.



Topic 6 – Religion and Beliefs

“The Welsh Government believes strongly in celebrating the different and diverse cultures within Wales. Schools with a religious character are one aspect of the diversity within our communities, and the Welsh Government acknowledges the significant part faith has played in the development of the education system in Wales. Today, schools with a religious character continue to fulfil a valuable role in Welsh society” (Welsh Government, Faith in Education, 2011).

Under the UNCRC, Children’s Commissioner for Wales, Article 14 states that all children have the right to follow their own Religion (UNCRC, Article 14). At Thomas Primary, we make sure that all children have a say on their own Beliefs. We do not like to force anything upon them, which is why we have come up with a classroom activity, which allows each child to express what they think about Religion, making sure they respect other values and opinions as well as being able to have theirs heard.



“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace” (Annan, UNICEF report, 2000).

Topic 7 – Using the internet/Cyberbullying

The internet, when used correctly, can be a brilliant online resource for children and their learning. There are so many interesting and wonderful facts to be learned and it is important that children have the chance to explore, whether on their own or with friends. However, it can also be somewhere that holds a lot of risks.

At Thomas Primary, our children's safety is our number one priority and we try our absolute best to keep them from any danger or harm. As part of our "Safety Surfing Web" Scheme, we have selected a range of child friendly websites that vary for all ages, which includes the chance for them to browse safely, giving them a wide range of questions and answers, games, activities and information to choose from. We have included educational and lifestyle choices such as healthy living, religions, everyday life e.g. gardening, shopping, playing with friends, learning by numbers, money, online books and many more. It also includes a wonderful range of games and activities for them to choose from.

We do NOT tolerate cyberbullying. We understand in the day and age we are living in the internet has somewhat taken over. As much as we try and give our children the freedom in learning, we have set limits and boundaries. We do not allow the access of any social media platforms which includes Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. When researching statistics, we found out that 55% of children and young people say they have been bullied about how they look (YMCA, 2018). More than 16,000 young people are absent from school due to bullying (NSPCC, 2018). We as a school feel that children of a primary school age, if not any age, should not have to experience such negative approaches or feelings towards themselves or others and will take every precaution that we can to make School life as positive and inspiring as possible. We believe that teaching our children how to respect one another and to value each other is one of the biggest life lessons and will make sure that we continue this way of thinking and learning throughout their whole educational experience.

Topic 8 – School Meals/Breakfast/After School Club

Article 24 of Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales states that children have a right to good food and water (Plant Cymru, 2020).

We would like to assure you that we have the option of free school meals for all children. We also provide Breakfast clubs and After School clubs. We, Thomas primary, provide these options for yourselves as parents and carers, to take any stress there may be from yourselves. If you are struggling to get home in time for the end of the school day or need to get to work earlier than a School start, then please do not hesitate in using our clubs as we want to make sure that everybody sets their day up right as well as winding down after a full day's work in School.

Thomas primary have also taken in to account every child's diet as we offer a wide range of food, including halal, kosher, vegetarian, vegan and many more options. We want to make sure we are catering for everyone, so no one goes without.

Throughout the school day, we also provide snack times where a choice of juice, milk and water is handed out along with a variety of different snacks.

If there are any concerns or queries in regard to food/diet, please contact us.



Topic 9 – Disabilities and Support

Article 23 of Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales states that children have a right to special care and support if they have a disability so that they can lead a full and independent life (Plant Cymru, 2020).

“All children and young people have the right to be safe and happy. When a child or young person has a disability, people should make sure it does not get in the way of this. They should do this no matter what the disability is” (UNCRC, 2011).

“Children and young people should be cared for in a way that takes any disabilities they have into account and should be taught at school in a way that understands their disability” (UNCRC, 2011).

“People shouldn't treat a child or young person badly because of their disability. They shouldn't stop them from doing things they want to do and shouldn't try to take away their rights” (UNCRC, 2011).

In Thomas Primary, we try our best to go above and beyond for all pupils who have a disability. Around our whole school we have disabled access to the building, and no one is ever singled out from other children. We also have disabled access transport for when needed, if we are attending a school trip or even transport to and from school. We always make sure that children feel included and are able to join in activities that we do daily. If any child with a disability needs special care, we have a group of fully trained staff to do so. If you as parents and carers need any extra support then please do not hesitate on contacting us, as we are always here to help as best as we can.



What is the UNCRC?

“The UNCRC is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It’s a list of rights for all children and young people, no matter who you are, where you live or what you believe in. They apply to you up to the age of 18. The UNCRC lists 42 articles – rights that children and young people have to be safe, to play, to have an education, to be healthy and to be happy” (Welsh Government, 2015).

“We want a Wales where children’s rights are a reality for each and every child” (Welsh Government, 2015).

The UNCRC in Wales

“In 2011, we decided to take an extra step and make the UNCRC law in Wales.

This law is called the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Measure has changed the way we work. It means we have to consider children’s rights in everything we do” (Welsh Government, 2015).

If you would like to read a bit more regarding the UNCRC in Wales, then visit our school website www.ThomasPrimarySchoolWales.school.net where you will find a link to the Welsh Government, UNCRC and lots more information on Children’s Rights and Responsibilities!

Thank you for taking your time to read our monthly leaflet with our monthly topic of -

Children's Rights and Responsibilities.

We here at Thomas Primary welcome all questions and queries you may have and want to make sure that you always receive a warm welcome from ourselves. We only want the best for your children and will always be here for a support system for yourselves also.

If you have any suggestions on where we can improve or any ideas at all what we could include in our school days, then please do not hesitate on sharing these with us as we are always more than happy to listen and take on your views.

We will continue to go above and beyond for our children here at Thomas Primary, making sure the way we work and learn exceeds the child's expectations and will always make sure they have their say.



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Rights and Responsibilities

Produce a pamphlet for parents