

How Children's Rights are Implemented in our School



BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
IN THE WORLD
HAS ONE THING
IN COMMON.
THEIR RIGHTS.

Welcome
Parents of
Mystic Falls
Primary School
pupils!

A child from every background is entitled to having and knowing their own rights. Our school makes sure of this by explaining the rights to the children, making sure all staff are aware of these rights and getting parents involved.

What rights we make sure children are being aware of:

- Education rights
- Diversity rights
- Confidentiality rights
- Equality rights
- Play rights



Education Rights

Education plays a vital role in children's lives; correct education can help with reducing poverty and child labour to ensure our children have the educational future they deserve.

Our school strives to help the children develop their abilities mentally/physically therefore they are having a fair chance at having an education. Education prepares children for the rest of their lives; therefore, we take this right very seriously.

Making this right known

We ensure all children who attend Mystic Falls Primary School have access to learning the same curriculum. As we do have pupils with additional needs, we ensure that our one-to-one's are professionally trained to ensure that the children have the same learning opportunities as others.

In our Welsh lessons we ensure that our pupils are heavily supported while learning a new language as this can be difficult to learn. Also, our work sheets come in any form of language desired as we know that parents are heavily involved when completing homework.

Future education is widely discussed in our primary school, especially for the students who are leaving for the next stage of education in secondary school. It is important to support children during this time as it can be a very stressful time for some.

We pay attention to UNICEF Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states:

State Parties recognise the right of children to education and should take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity (UNICEF, 2020).

"We empower children and their self-esteem to do well in education" – Caroline Bennett, Head Teacher.

Our Educational Policies

It is our responsibility as a school to make sure that no child shall be denied their right to education also, we respect any learning enquiries from parents that are preferred for their child for example, religious preferences.

As a board we follow certain qualities of the 1997 New Labour policy. This policy benefits our children by ensuring they have a sure start in their education. We aim to make sure that every child has an equal learning opportunity all throughout their journey in our school. By working with this policy, we have noticed that our school is improving every day, for the benefit of our community (Revise Sociology, 2017).

Child-Centred Practises are mainly prioritised in our school when it comes to teaching your children as we specifically plan our learning itinerary to their desired form of learning. By encouraging this approach, we recognize that every child has a unique way of learning that must be supported in order for

them to become successful in their educational experience. As learning professionals, we work endlessly with a learning plan for each individual child to make sure that the opportunities they are given are beneficial for their future (Sanderson, 2018).

"Content learners make a happier school environment" – Matt Lockwood, Year 3 Teacher.



Diversity Rights

Diversity is understanding that each individual is different and has unique needs. Diversity consists of:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender

- Sexual orientation
- Culture
- Religion
- Class
- Immigration status



By encouraging diversity in our school, it will help to build your children's self-confidence and develop their skills. We will always teach our pupils about the many different beliefs and cultures to expand their knowledge and respect to others. We highly encourage this right as it shapes the child's perception and judgement of others

which is important in society (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2020).

Making this right known

It is important to teach children about diversity from an early age as they will become more respectful towards individuals and their lifestyles.

From an early age it is important to demonstrate to children how everyone should be treated and deserve to be treated. To ensure that this right is respected we avoid using stereotypes when creating examples and work sheets for our lessons as this sets out a bad outlook on individuals and how others think of them.

Before every lesson we make sure that all materials we use do not discriminate against anyone or their culture as this can have a devastating effect on their mental health.

Also, we are aware that we have pupils with additional needs therefore, we ensure that every lesson is prepared and catered for their learning preferences. For example, we use large prints, audio formats and many more styles therefore everyone has an opportunity to learn. We will make sure as a school to develop policies and procedures that don't discriminate against any pupil or staff members (Petty, 2014).

Our Diversity Policies

Many policies are created under this right, by following these policies our school becomes a more positive place for children and all members of our staff.

We encourage children to be more open with their culture and beliefs as this will allow them to be more comfortable in themselves and our school.

Our number one policy is NO racism or any form of bullying against a child or staff member because of their beliefs. We support any form of sexual orientation and are highly against any form of bullying towards this. If any case of racism is brought to the schools attention then we will take matters further, no child should be discriminated against.



Our school provides training for teachers and staff therefore they will be able to deal with serious issues in a culturally sensitive way. Every year we welcome new members of staff from ethnic minority backgrounds as we DO NOT believe in any form of discrimination.

All members of the school must appreciate the differences between religions and cultures even if their views and beliefs clash with another's (Rashid, Tikly, 2010).

Confidentiality Rights

Confidentiality is when you do not share personal information about a child or adult that you are responsible for. This is a form of respect and protection against individuals who can not be trusted. It is vital to us to protect your children and their information; however, we must discuss that child with other professionals if they are showing to be a risk to themselves or others.



Making this right known

Our school continues to develop creative ways for children to develop knowledge about their human rights, as some children are vulnerable it is our duty to help them feel safe and protected from any danger.

It is important to us for children to understand that they can trust us with any information as this could benefit their life. We repeatedly reassure children that we have their best interests maintained as this will form a trust between our team members and them (Blakeney Primary School, 2010).

With proof of identity parents and guardians will be able to gain any crucial and private information about their child however, we must stress that you will need to bring as much proof of ID that you have about you and the child.

All children, no matter their background have a right to a high level of confidentiality and protection against negative experiences. We always seek the best advice and guidance from our on-site Child Protection Officer, Jeremy Forbes.

Our Confidentiality Policies

To ensure no information about a child is leaked we forbid any discussions outside school hours amongst members of staff about a child's personal and school life as anyone could be listening.

Also, we work with parents on ways to teach their children about not leaking personal topics such as where they live and etc to people they do not know. As we know most children are visual learners, our Child Protection Officer presents an example video every 4 months of what could go wrong if important information got into the wrong hands. He will then answer any further questions from the children and staff during assembly. Also, if any parents have any concerning

questions then we will arrange a meeting to ensure that your needs are met fully as we know this is a very important topic.

Our policy is to always have files containing crucial information in a protected environment therefore your children will always be safe, as that it our duty as a school community.

“Confidentiality is all about loyalty and as a school, our loyalties will always be to you and your children” – Jeremy Forbes, Child Protection Officer.

Equality Rights

Equality is a human's right to an opportunity no matter what their background or culture is.

Equality has developed in the most recent years however, there are still

many adults and children that still struggle with this act. Knowing what equality is will be crucial when handling experiences of prejudice, this will allow us to gather information on how to support the individual that is being discriminated against (Eyalliance, 2019).

As a school we strive to promote positive attitudes to our pupils and teach them right from wrong. Discrimination can have a lasting effect on a child's confidence and self-esteem therefore we take this human right very seriously.



Making this right known

As equality is a main problem in society it is crucial to ensure all needs are met when it comes to educating our pupils. It is important to realise that not all children learn the same and we must supply all learning preferences to ensure we are an equal opportunity school. As a school, we always search for learning opportunities for our pupils to be involved in more diverse groups. This will promote equality across our society and will ensure that every child has an equal opportunity at an education.

We create themed weeks to learn about different types of beliefs and lifestyles, by doing this the pupils will develop a positive outlook on themselves and others. Recently in our school we held a 'disability week' where our pupils learnt about the effects of all types of disabilities and how individuals live with these additional needs every day. Also, the pupils had an opportunity to work in groups about their chosen disability and reported back to the class in a form of presentation therefore everyone got to learn about the many diverse additional needs that effect people every day (Petty, 2014).

To end our week, a guest speaker came into assembly to discuss her experience of having an additional need and how it has affected her life since a young age. She shared a powerful speech about how individuals should not be discriminated against because of their disability, as many



of our students have a disability, we found it awarding to see their reaction and how this speech empowered them.

“It was interesting to hear how inspired the children were after my speech in disability week, it is important to discuss these needs with children as they are our future” – Elena Jones, disability week guest speaker.

Also, we quiz the children on recent news about equality every Wednesday afternoon to develop insight on their opinions on the problem and what could happen to improve this social issue. In work sheets we identify stereotypes and discuss how this could negatively affect a person and their self-esteem. By doing this, we are educating the children on why equality is important and why we should always respect each other.

Our Equality Policies

Our policy is to gather information on how to make our school a more equal place for example, we make reasonable adjustments where necessary. If any of our staff members lack in making any adjustments, then this will be seen as discrimination and it will be taken further to the school board.

We ensure that every adjustment is put in place every morning ready for our additional needs pupils to learn. We follow advice from the National Deaf Children's Society (no date) about what adjustments need to be put in schools, they recommend:

- Visual aids
- Facing a child when speaking therefore they can lip read
- Give extra time to do work because the child may process words slower than others
- Ensure all teachers are trained in a deaf awareness course (NDCS, no date)

By practising this policy every day, our school will develop into a more positive learning environment.

We ensure that our school council are educated about equality as pupils with any enquiries can ask them any questions in confidence. Also, we take parents views heavily into consideration therefore please contact us.

We heavily monitor all bully incidents in school and always seek to gather information on why it is happening. As rights are important, we continue to raise awareness of equality issues with the children and staff until we see more noticeable improvements.



Play Rights

As the International Play Association (2020) states, play is very important for children to develop mentally, physically, socially and emotionally (IPA, 2020).



We encourage children to play as this is key part of education, this will create a healthy balance between completing work and social play. By encouraging play in our pupils, this will provide them with the childhood that they deserve. Every child in the world has a right to play.

Making this right known

We ensure that children play for 20 minutes in the morning, 40 minutes at lunch time and another 20 minutes at the end of the day. We have play equipment during break times to encourage children to play and socialise in groups. To ensure all our equipment is safe we carry out a risk assessment when we receive it therefore, it will be ready for use at school.

By playing, children maintain relationships with their friends and family members which is vital while they are still mentally developing.

We choose staff members each play time to go out on the school yard and attend to our pupils. By doing so, they can be on site to fix any problems that arise between the pupils and encourage them to take advantage of their break time.

Our Play Policies

We ensure that staff members are aware that this right is put in place therefore, they are ordered to respect and value this policy. We ensure that our pupils with additional needs are supported throughout play as they may find it difficult to take part or complete certain activities for example, climbing frames, sports equipment and heavy objects.

Our policy is to not threaten the withdrawal of play as a punishment to control a child's behaviour as this could create more problems in and out of school. Also, it could affect a child mentally as they are missing out on their human right to play. As a school, we put many safety rules in place therefore we can avoid any serious physical harm to the pupils while they are playing (Play Wales, 2002).

We ensure there are a range of opportunities to play throughout our school because many children play and socialise in a different way. Also in our school yard we have a 'Discover a friend' corner therefore any child who doesn't have a friend to play with can stand at this corner and children will come up to them and encourage them to play with them, therefore every child will have a chance to play.

Safeguarding

According to Children in Wales (2014) safeguarding is the promotion of welfare in children and protecting them from abuse, harm and neglect. Also, this ensures that they are safe and have an effective form of care.

Protecting our pupils is very important to us therefore we ensure that all our staff members have had safeguarding training.

All children have the right to be safeguarded, our staff ensure to create an honest environment to monitor children's behaviour. Bullying can happen in many school's; therefore, we make sure to always take note and monitor any incidents that may arise amongst students. To ensure safety in our school we take regular DBS checks to make sure that none of our staff members pose as a threat to your children. It is vital to lecture children on staying safe in society and online, by doing so their well being and mental health will be protected which will enable them to develop in a positive environment.

To ensure we are taking the necessary procedures we confide in the advice from the Wales Government on how to keep our pupils safe from harm and dangerous incidents.

Thank you for reading!

By following these rights our school will become a more positive environment for children to learn and grow in preparation for their next phase of education. As we have stated previously, we ensure to the best of our ability to explain every right listed to the pupils therefore, they are aware of the rights they are entitled to and how they can benefit them throughout their educational journey.

No child should be stripped of their rights as this can affect them negatively and impact how they perform throughout their life. We support and discuss any enquiries with parents about their children's rights as this will help us to understand what support is needed for their child specifically. This will allow them to develop throughout education knowing they are supported by many.

As a school it is important that we develop and better our community everyday for the children who choose to learn and grow within the school.

We hope that this booklet has answered many of your questions about how your children are respected in schools and how they are protected from any harm that may arise within their educational experience. We cannot stress enough how your children make our school a better place by developing within these rights.

If any parents/guardians have any questions we will happily discuss this with you to ensure your needs are met. please contact the school at: 01792 885432.

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