



## Rights Respecting School Award

25.5.2018

This week's Article focusses:

- Article 2 (non-discrimination) - the convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.
- Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion) - every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.
- Article 38 (war and armed conflict) - governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May marked a year since the tragic terror attack at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester. As a result, our rights respecting focus this week surrounded this topic and the type of world that we want to live in.

The children were introduced to the life of Martin Luther King, one of the most visible spokespersons and leaders in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his death in 1968. Martin Luther King spent his life protesting peacefully to inspire change and encourage equality. He directed a peaceful march on Washington DC, where around 250,000 people attended and hear his deliver his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. At the age of 35 Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

The children were encouraged to recognise the importance of people like Martin Luther King and to consider the type of world that he aspired to live in. When asked what type of world they wanted to live in, responses included:

- A peaceful one
- One where people are kind to each other
- One where there is no war

I was very impressed with the maturity that the children in the school showed when discussing this topic. The message that they were able to come away with was the importance of treating each other equally and with respect and that, when conducted peacefully, positive change is possible.

If you or your child feel affected by these events, then the following link offers support and guidance for how to discuss this topic.

[https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world?qclid=EAlaIQobChMlu9vyqLig2wIVjLHtCh1oZgeoEAAYASAAEgKxdfD\\_BwE](https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world?qclid=EAlaIQobChMlu9vyqLig2wIVjLHtCh1oZgeoEAAYASAAEgKxdfD_BwE)