



Rights Respecting School Award

29.6.2018

This week is a cause for celebration at Leybourne Chase as on Monday the school was visited by Paul Harris (a member of Unicef UK) to be assessed as to the school's progress towards the Rights Respecting School Award. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

The school embarked on their journey towards the Silver (Level 1) award beginning in September and throughout the whole year the school has been focussing on teaching the children about their rights and offering children the opportunities to learn through rights and being ambassadors for their rights. The children have taken this award in their stride and are able to quote many of the rights in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. The award has had a profound impact on the attitudes of the children in the school. It has offered opportunities to foster respect and has provided children with a platform and a confidence to express their thoughts and opinions. The work that the children have done for charities both locally and globally has also fostered well rounded and open-minded thinkers and I have been unbelievably proud of the respectful attitudes of the children in our school.

The assessment on Monday highlighted the work that has gone into this award and I am delighted to inform you that the school has achieved the Silver award, something that only 8 other primary schools in Kent have currently achieved. Unicef state that the Silver award is given to schools that "*make excellent progress towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum.*"

In order to achieve this award, Mr Harris spoke to a number of children in the school to discuss their work towards understanding child rights. He was incredibly impressed with how well the children understood articles in the convention and how they could make links within and across different rights, relating them to current, topical issues. In addition to this, Mr Harris had the opportunity to speak to parents, staff members and governors to discuss how the school has kept them informed of the school's progress with teaching and learning about the convention. I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all of the incredible members of this school: children, parents, staff and governors - your support in all areas is greatly appreciated.

The next step in our journey as a school is to achieve the Gold award which is the highest accolade granted by Unicef. Our aim over the next year is to continue to develop children's understanding of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, allowing them further opportunities to have a central role in developing the school and supporting children's rights both locally and globally. If any parents wish to get involved with our work throughout the year, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me - your support would be much appreciated.

Thank you all for helping us to achieve this award, it is a testament to the children in this school and their hard work.

Miss Carlow ☺