

# FEATURES OF A RIGHTS-RESPECTING CLASSROOM



## In a rights-respecting classroom:

- Pupils and teachers negotiate and agree a classroom code of conduct, agreement or charter expressed in terms of rights (articles) from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Teachers and support staff model rights-respecting attitudes, for example teachers and support staff listen positively to pupils' views and show respect for their opinions; they avoid put-downs and sarcasm
- Pupils have regular opportunities to give their teachers feedback on what helps them learn and what they enjoy most about their lessons; and also to comment on what might hinder their learning
- Teachers explore and build upon pupils' ideas. Pupils can clearly see how their voiced opinions can affect change
- Teachers make use of a wide variety of teaching strategies and routes to learning, recognising that pupils may differ in their preferences for how they learn
- Teachers prioritise strategies that maximise pupil participation and engagement
- Pupils are fully involved in the assessment of their own learning and the evaluation of their own work; there is supportive evaluation of their peers' work
- Pupils are treated as capable and independent decision makers and are given responsibility for various aspects of classroom organisation
- Pupils have opportunities to make choices in their learning
- There is a strong emphasis on mutual support and collaboration which helps to foster a sense of belonging in all children and staff
- Support staff are valued and respected by all, as reflected in their relationships and communications with teacher colleagues and with pupils
- Both teachers and pupils strive to create positive relationships as everyone recognises and respects the rights of all to their education. Relationships are supportive and fair and are based on respect and trust
- Teachers have high expectations of the abilities of all pupils and this is communicated in a way that engenders feelings of competence
- Displays are used to reinforce awareness of rights in relation to each other and others locally and globally
- Pupils respect and value each other's similarities and differences and support each other; there are few incidences of negative behaviour, name-calling, racist or sexist comments
- High status and adequate time is given to listening and acting on pupils' views, for example time spent discussing feedback from School Council meetings
- **All** pupils make progress to the best of their abilities.

## Features of a rights-respecting classroom

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