

Key Areas of the Rights Respecting Schools Standard.

What does the United Nations Convention of the Rights of a Child say ?

There are 42 articles in the Convention, but they can be summed up as follows :

- **The Right to a Childhood**
Every child has the right to a safe childhood, protected from violence, abuse and exploitation. Every child has the right to grow up in a family environment, free from adult responsibilities and with the right to play.
- **The Right to an Education**
Every child has the right to an education that develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full.
- **The Right to be Healthy**
Every child has the right to health care, clean water, nutritious food and a safe environment so that they can be as healthy as possible.
- **The Right to be Treated Fairly**
All children have the same rights whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever their family background.
- **The Right to a Voice**
Every child has the right to a voice on all matters that affect them and for their views to be taken seriously.

The RRSA standards cover four key areas:

- Leading and managing a Rights Respecting School ;
- Teaching and learning about the Convention;
- Creating and maintaining a Rights Respecting ethos;
- Empowering children and young children to become active citizens and learners.

Article 29 is particularly important for schools :

Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as other cultures, and the environment.

Article 12

Article 12: Children 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. Every child has the right to have their opinions taken seriously.