

SPECIAL EDITION



WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.



July 2017 Newsletter No.19

St Catherine's Ambassadors are invited to speak at UNICEF Tea Party

The Venue

The event will be held at The Old Palace within Hatfield House on Thursday 18 July from 14:00-16:00.

format and timings

13:00 – Children from St. Catherine's Catholic School to arrive

14:00- Event begins.

14:10 - 14:15 – Jenny Kronbergs, Head of Gifts in Wills – Welcome guests.

14:15 -14:30 - Mike Penrose, Executive Director of Unicef UK.

14:30-14:45 - Unicef Ambassador Martin Bell to speak about his support for Unicef.

14:45 – Mike Penrose to thank Martin and introduce the children from St Catherine's Roman Catholic School- Gaia, Kimmianne, Gabriel, Martyna, Charlotte and Johnny Y.

St Catherine's Catholic School are a Gold Rights Respecting School. They achieved Gold in April 2018. Gold is the highest stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. Achieving 'Gold: Rights Respecting' means there is evidence that:

The school has explicitly adopted a child rights approach based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and has embedded it in school policy, practice and culture

Children, young people and adults have a thorough understanding of child rights, and rights respecting attitudes and language are embedded across the school

RRSA has had a positive impact on children and young people's learning and wellbeing

Students see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and are advocates for social justice, fairness and children's rights at home and abroad

14:50-15:05 - Children from St Catherine's Catholic School to share their experience of embedding the CRC and what it means to them.

15:05 - Mike Penrose to thank speakers and close.

15:10 - Afternoon tea is served to you and our guests & staff. Staff and speakers to circulate and chat to guests. Guests given the opportunity to take part in viewing the display boards & the videos.

16:00- Reception ends.

Speaker 1: Gaia

Hello my name is Gaia. As well as being a Rights Respecting Ambassador I am a Fundraising House Captain for Michael.

One of our strengths as a Gold RRS is that the children's voice is valued from the time the start Nursery.

We have RRS Ambassadors, House Captains, Sports Captains... everyone has a voice and a right to be listened to.

Our journey as a Rights Respecting School began in March 2015. In 2016 we were awarded the Level 1 Rights respecting status. Our Assessor was Gillian Roberts.

In our last Ofsted Inspection we were judged as outstanding.

Our Rights Respecting Leader is Mrs Ainger. She is lovely and wants us to keep trying to be the best school we can be!

Finally after two year of trying our VERY best we were awarded the Rights respecting Gold Award. This was awarded in April 2018. Our assessor was Paul Harris.

Most schools would stop here but NOT us!

We visited a nearby school called Martins School to chat about being a Gold award School and how we could work together. They are visiting our school in September.

We do not see this as a competition. We see this as a way to teach others.

This has made an impact on my own life by showing me that you can do anything if you try.

You can be the worst and become the best just by trying and having a growth mindset.

Thank You for listening to me.

Speaker 2: Johnny

Good Afternoon my name is Johnny. As well as being a Rights respecting ambassador I am also a Science ambassador.

Our work and determination has placed the UN Convention on the Rights of the child at the heart of every child in our school. This has created a great impact that has drastically improved the well-being and development of every child's talents and abilities. As Gaia said we encourage all to have a GROWTH mind-set.

One of the many ways this happens is through Talk Partners. They demonstrate our respect for one another and the significance of listening and respecting the views of one another.

Observations and assessments by our headteacher, the leadership team and governors have also displayed this constantly as well as how we use our mistakes and each other as vital learning resources.

We have also all agreed on our behaviour system which has impacted positively on our learning behaviours inside and outside school. 'Every child has a right to an education'.

St Catherine's School strives to create a diverse community in which all members are safe, respected and valued. We believe that in actively promoting a diverse learning environment, we are fostering intellectual, social and emotional growth for all.

We aspire to a celebration of the varied appearances, abilities, perspectives and values that characterize our community. Everyone has a voice.

We are continuously organising fundraising events, raising awareness and responding to global issues that arise. Recently our group held a trade fair and the monies raised were donated to Noah's Ark Hospice and FSSA Zambia- showing how we reach out locally and globally.

At our school there is a serious zero tolerance and any form of bullying and regularly have discussions about this matter; encouraging children tell a member of staff if we ever have concerns.

Speaker 3 Kimmianne

Hello, my name is Kimmianne Davis. I have been a Rights Respecting Ambassador for 3 years since year 4.

So what makes St Catherine's so special?

We, as a Rights Respecting school, have class charters in every classroom and in key areas around the school- the main hall, entrance, dining hall and playground. The Class charters in every classroom are designed by the children in September and show that every child has the rights of a child from the day they are born.

As Johnny said we also have very visual behaviour charts. Our Behaviour charts include a reminder, warning and time out. Children own their behaviour and everyone has the right to learn. Every class also has a large star which is a way of rewarding good behaviour.

Every month we have a new Theme of the Month and an Article of the month which are linked. This month our theme is Friendship and our article is article 15- every child has the right to meet with other children and young people and to join groups and organisation as long as this does not stop people from enjoying their rights.

When School Advisers, Governors and new parents come to look around our school they instantly find evidence to show why we are a Gold Rights Respecting School such as the way the children behave- eager to learn and happy in the classroom environment.

At St Catherine's we also believe in the Children's Voice. We have House Captains, Sports Captains, and Fundraising Captains, a School Council, science Ambassadors, Junior Road Safety Officers, Prefects and so many other ways. We are listened to!

Thank you for listening to me.

Speaker 4 Charlotte

Hello! My name is Charlotte and I've been a Rights Respecting Ambassador for three years. In 2016 we received our Level 1 Award and since then we have been working non-stop to be the best we can be!

In 2018 we achieved the Gold Rights Respecting Award! We are so incredibly proud of our amazing accomplishment that we have worked very hard for.

Just because we have been awarded the gold does not mean that we have stopped working hard. We have continued to help other schools locally and globally.

We are in the process of completing a power point about Rights Respecting schools and how it has affected us. This will be shared with new parents at Parents evenings and on the TV as you enter the school.

As you may know we are year 6 pupils and we will shortly be leaving St Catherine's. Although our time is nearly over, personally I feel I have helped my school massively in the past three years. I am positive that our Rights Respecting School will continue the amazing journey we have started.

Being a Rights Respecting Ambassador has helped me to understand the different beliefs and cultures around our world. I am more aware of what is happening in our world and how we can make a difference. I know that my role as a Rights Respecting Ambassador will help me in my later life.

As I move on to my new Secondary School I hope they too carry out what I have learnt from being part of a Rights Respecting School.

When I make new friends I am going to introduce them to the work of UNICEF and what it means to be a Rights Respecting School. This way more people in the world are what we believe in and can make a difference for what is right!

Hopefully you wonderful people can also make a difference and spread this important message.

Can You? Well I hope so!

Thank you for giving up your time and listening to what we have to say. Amazing day and goodbye!

Speaker 5 Martyna

Hello my name is Martyna. I am a Rights Respecting Ambassador and a Fund Raising captain. Every week we produce a newsletter spreading awareness of what we do as a Rights respecting school.

Last month we launched 'The Big Question'. The very first question was related very much to a topic in the news locally and globally.

Do you know what it is? Yes it is about looking after our world!

We asked children in our school through a lunch time survey what they think about the amount of plastic and litter in our world.

Our children were horrified at some of the facts presented. We all believe we NEED to make the world a better place for ALL!

The year 4 children took part in Pollution workshops which they greatly enjoyed. This inspired and engaged the year 4 children to learn more about the important issues around pollution and climate change.

The Workshop Leaders helped the children explore what human and natural activities and processes cause the gas to enter the atmosphere. More importantly they gave us a useful, practical way to help resolve pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. WE welcome visitors who teach us about our world and how we can make a difference.

Clean Air Day is a local event led by an organisation that raises awareness of the dangers of toxic air and what we can do to tackle it.

As Rights Respecting Ambassadors we are constantly considering how we can look after our world. Pope Francis said that we all need to play a part and speak up to look after our world.

Being a Rights Respecting Ambassador has made me so aware of the importance of looking after our world and the people in our world.

My friends and I love making things to sell and raising money for those less fortunate than us such as Homeless in Barnet, FSSA Zambia.

I am not going on to secondary school Barnet but I am moving to a different country with my family. I hope my new school cares about our world just like St Catherine's.

I have greatly enjoyed being a Rights respecting Ambassador and this will remain in my journey as I move on.

Thank you for inviting us and listening to me this afternoon.

Speaker 6 Gabriel

Hello my name is Gabriel. I am a Rights respecting Ambassador at St Catherine's. I am going to talk to you about how we are Global Citizens and our Global Learning.

I have a question for you all!

What do you think about the use of plastic in our world?

Here are three quotes from members of the St Catherine's Community about their thoughts on this issue.

'I think it devastating what this is doing to our world.'

'If we don't do something now our oceans will be a plastic landfill!'

It is very, very sad. It is killing the sea life in our seas and oceans.'

These quotes came from the year 4 & 5 children in a recent survey.

Did you know that one million single use plastic bags are used annually across the globe?

More than half a billion plastic straws are used every day around the world.

The big problem with plastic is that it is not biogradible- it hangs around in our world for hundreds of years!

Think about this and tell your friends and family!

I hope to continue to voice my opinion about how we can look after our world as I go on to secondary school.

Last month Mr Bell, our Music teacher, wrote a song which the choir performed at the Barnet Arts Depot. It shows how passionate we are that as we grow older we continue to look after our world and make a difference.

The children were amazing and we are incredibly proud of everything they have done for St Catherine's. They spoke with such clarity and confidence and it was evident that being a Rights Respecting Ambassador has positively impacted both on our school but also on them as wonderful individuals. So many of the guests came over during the tea party to congratulate the children from year 6. Over the last three years they have been outstanding RRS Ambassadors and we wish them every happiness as they move on to their new schools.