

Rights Respecting Schools Newsletter – Autumn 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Rights Respecting Schools newsletter. What a busy and inspiring first term we've had! This term, we have proudly continued our journey towards becoming a fully **Rights Respecting School**, building on our **Bronze Award achievement in 2024**.

Our focus this term has been on deepening our understanding of children's rights and exploring how these rights apply not only within our own school community, but globally.

What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)?

The **Rights Respecting Schools Award** puts children's rights at the heart of school life in the UK. Led by **UNICEF UK**, the programme supports schools in creating safe, inclusive, and inspiring environments where children are respected, their voices are heard, and their talents are nurtured.

Through RRSA, children learn about the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** and how these rights apply to their everyday lives. Importantly, they also develop the knowledge, skills, and values needed to become responsible, compassionate, and active global citizens.

The award recognises a school's commitment to putting children's rights into practice **in school and beyond**, empowering pupils to understand fairness, dignity, and equality for all.

Children's Rights in Action at Pickhurst

At Pickhurst, **Article 29 (Goals of Education)** underpins everything we do. This article reminds us that education should help children develop their talents and abilities, respect human rights, and understand their responsibilities in a global community.

Over the past year, pupils have learned about their rights through assemblies and classroom discussions, created Class Charters and shared expectations based on the UNCRC, taken part in School Council discussions where children's voices shape decision-making and explored rights through themed days, events, and cross-curricular learning.

These experiences have helped our pupils understand that children's rights are **universal** — they belong to *every* child, everywhere.



September Highlights



Thinking Globally: Supporting Children's Rights Beyond Pickhurst

Inspired by their learning of the children's right, a group of **Year 5 pupils**, led by **Mr Johnson**, began asking thoughtful questions about children's lives in other parts of the world:

- Do all children have the same access to education?
- What barriers might stop children from enjoying their rights?
- How can children use their voices to make a positive difference?

As a result, the group took the first steps towards building a connection with **Kapumpe School in Africa**, a charity-funded school that supports **orphans and vulnerable children and their guardians** by providing access to education and care.

<https://www.arisekapumpe.com/>



This work links strongly to **Article 2** – the right to non-discrimination, **Article 28** – the right to education and **Article 29** – education that develops respect, understanding, and responsibility.

Rather than seeing this as charity, pupils are learning about **solidarity, partnership, and mutual respect** — recognising that all children have rights, and that we can stand together to help ensure those rights are realised.

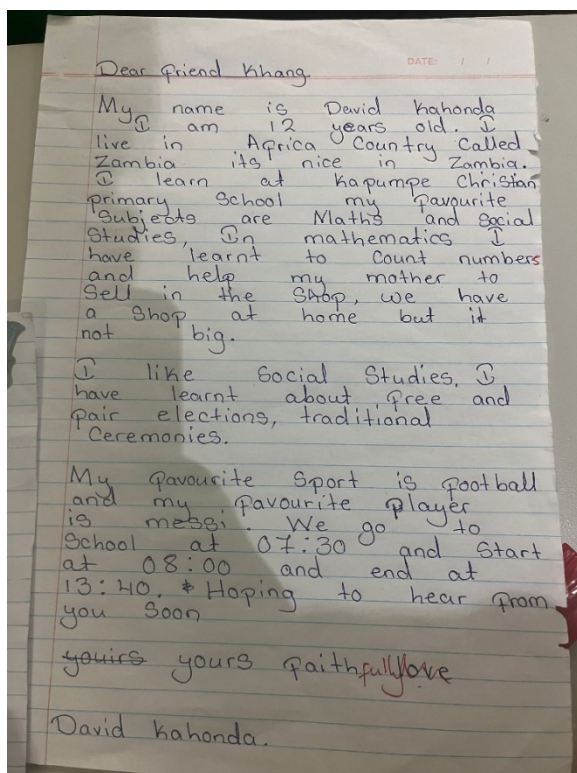
“We learned that children everywhere have the same rights as us, even if their lives are very different. We want to help in a respectful way.”

– Ruby H, year 5



This is just the beginning of our global rights journey. Over the coming terms, pupils will learn more about children’s rights around the world, explore fair and meaningful ways to support Kapumne School, consider how education can empower children and communities and reflect on their own responsibilities as global citizens.

We look forward to sharing more updates as this partnership develops.

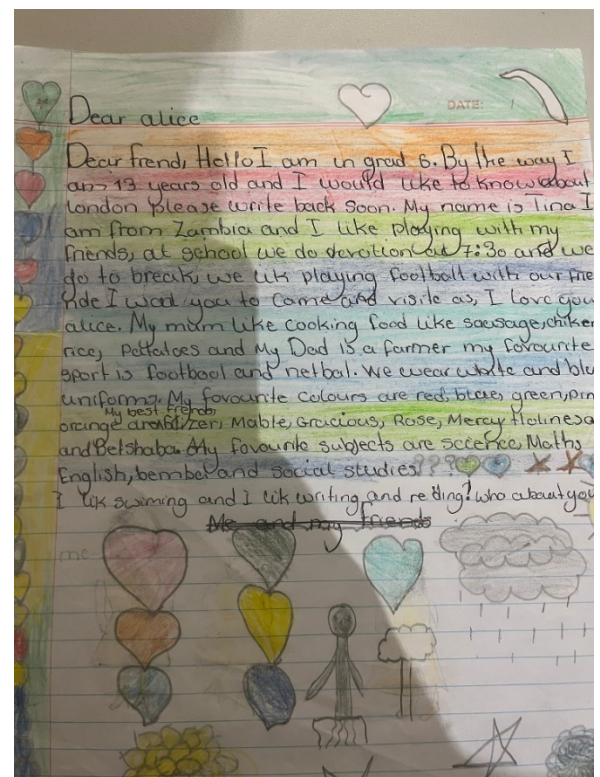


“They seem really positive even though they don’t have the same opportunities as us.”

Flora, year 5

“They had really cool drawings, were very creative and wanted to be our friends and visit.”

Juno, year 5



Article 29 in Action at Pickhurst

Our work at Pickhurst is guided by **Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which focuses on education that helps children develop their talents, respect others, and take an active role in society.

We provide a **safe and inclusive environment** that supports children's wellbeing and encourages positive relationships. Pupils have access to a wide range of opportunities, including **music, art, sport, outdoor learning, educational visits, residentials, and enrichment clubs**, allowing every child to explore their interests and strengths.

Children's voices are central to school life. Through regular opportunities to share ideas and take on responsibilities, pupils learn that their opinions matter and can lead to positive change.

"I like that teachers listen to our ideas and help us make things better for everyone." Henry, year 4
School Council

Article 29 (goals of education)

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 respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



Article 12 – respect for the views of the child

Every child has the right to **express their views, feelings and wishes** in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.



Article 12 of the convention (respect for the views of the child) has taught us about the importance of being listened to and having our voices heard. In September, every class has chosen 2 children to represent us in the School Council. In our weekly School Council assemblies, we discuss the main topics of the week, think about the Pickhurst Value of the month and what we can do to make our school a better place. We feel our voices are heard and our ideas are considered.

We learn about the values of democracy and our lessons prepare us for the future.

"I am proud to be School Council and when someone needs help, I can help them." Ariella, year 4
School Council

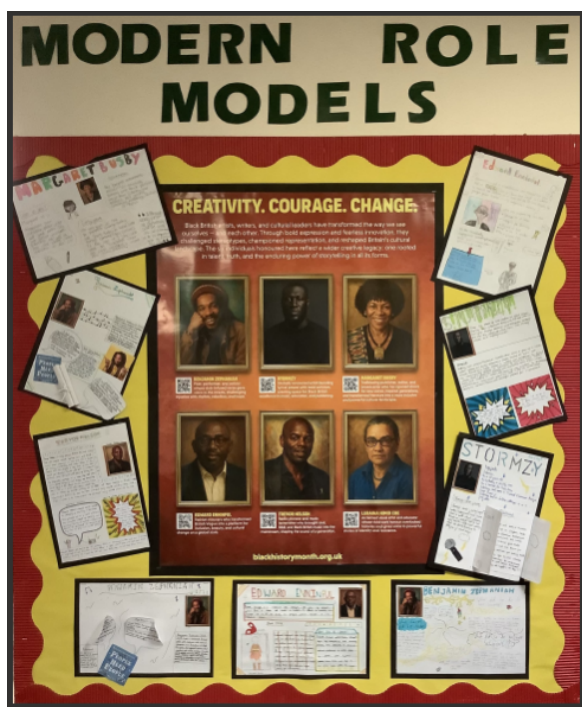
October Highlights

Black History Month and the Race Charter Mark – Celebrating Diversity and Equality

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 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.	 
 RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS  unicef UNITED KINGDOM	

At Pickhurst Academy, we believe that **every child matters** and that all children should be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. This commitment is rooted in **Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which states that children must not be discriminated against for any reason, including ethnicity, gender, religion, language, ability, or background.

We are proud of our ongoing work to promote **race equality** and to prioritise an inclusive school culture through our engagement with the **Race Charter Mark**. This work supports our aim to ensure that all pupils feel safe, valued, and represented within our school community.



Across the school, children learn about and celebrate diversity through **assemblies, School Council discussions, RE, and PSHE lessons**. Pupils enjoy learning about the achievements of people from different cultures, backgrounds, and genders, helping them to understand that everyone has the right to be proud of who they are. This work also links closely to **Article 30**, which protects a child's right to enjoy their own culture, religion, and language.

Positive role models are visible across the curriculum.

"I like learning about people from different backgrounds because it shows that everyone can achieve great things." Naheeda, year 4

Harvest Assembly

In our Harvest Assembly, the children were introduced to one of their fundamental rights according to the UN convention on the rights of the child: **THE RIGHT TO FOOD**.

UN convention on the rights of the child - Article 24

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.



Article 6

Introducing Article 6 (life, survival and development)

Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.



This year's Harvest Festival was a wonderful celebration of kindness and community spirit. Pupils, families, and staff came together to collect a generous amount of food to support families in need across Hayes. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated—your contributions will make a real difference to our local community.

They are all grateful for our donations.

Well done, Pickhurst!
Once again, you've
outdone yourselves.

Thank you, parents
and carers, for all
your donations.



November Highlights

Armistice Day and Article 38

On **Armistice Day**, our school community came together to reflect and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Through special assemblies, the children laid wreaths, listened to *The Last Post* and heard a moving war poem. Following the assemblies, the whole school observed a respectful two-minute silence, encouraging the children to think about the bravery and selflessness of those who fought for peace and freedom. This links closely to **Article 38 of the UN Convention on**

the Rights of the Child, which states that children have the right to be protected from war and violence. By remembering the past, the children were able to understand the importance of peace and why their right to grow up safe and protected matters. It was a poignant and meaningful occasion, reminding us all of the importance of remembrance, gratitude and respect for children's rights.



"It's important to remember that our elders suffered and even gave their lives for our country and freedom. We should always keep their memories in our hearts." Arwa and Aisha, year 4



Anti-Bullying Week

Through interactive theatre, role-play, and storytelling, children were taught how to identify bullying. They developed an understanding of power imbalances, were provided with strategies to build confidence, and developed skills to be effective bystanders (upstanders) by using empathy, communication, and assertiveness to resolve conflicts and report issues. Children discussed cyberbullying and the importance of kindness.

“I learnt how words can hurt and how to stand up for myself and others. The story made me think about how everyone wants to feel safe and happy at school. I want to be kinder and help stop bullying when I see it happening.” Myra, year 5

“The anti-bullying workshop made me realise how important it is to treat everyone with respect. I learned that even small actions, like including someone, can make a big difference. It felt good to talk about our feelings and promise to be kinder so everyone can feel safe and accepted.” Joey, year 5

December Highlights

Human Rights Day, 10th of December

In our assembly, the children revisited what *human rights* are and learned that rights are things everyone is legally entitled to, not just things we want. We explored how human rights are linked to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, which explains the special rights that all children have so they can be safe, healthy and happy.

The children discussed the difference between **rights, needs and wants**, understanding that while we may want lots of things, our rights are connected to our most important needs, such as food, water, shelter, safety, education and having our voices heard.

Finally, the children reflected on how our school helps them observe and enjoy their rights every day. They shared examples such as feeling safe, being listened to, having access to learning, choosing their friends and being treated fairly and with respect. The assembly helped reinforce that children’s rights matter and that we all have a role in respecting them.

“Today’s assembly made me realise that human rights aren’t just big ideas for adults — they’re for us too. In our Rights Respecting School we learn how to stand up for each other and make sure everyone feels safe and valued.” Safi, year 6

We hope you have found this newsletter informative. If you have any enquires about RRSA, please do contact office@pickhurst.com.

Kind regards,

Mrs Paun

RE Lead & Events Coordinator

RRSA Lead