



## **Rights Respecting Charter**

### **Introduction:**

Walthamstow Primary Academy has adopted the Rights Respecting approach to education, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We recognise and promote the rights of every child and prioritise their well-being above everything else. We aim to create a safe and nurturing learning environment that promotes excellence, equality, diversity, and respect.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

Our Rights Respecting policy aims to:

- Embed a culture of respect, understanding, and compassion for every child
- Enable children to learn effectively and confidently in a safe and supportive environment
- Give children a voice and involve them in decision-making processes that affect their lives
- Prepare children for responsible citizenship and active participation in their communities
- Encourage partnership between parents, staff, governors, and external agencies to promote the best interests of children

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- James Hucknall is responsible for ensuring the policy is effectively implemented and monitored.
- Luiza Paluca (The Rights-respecting Coordinator) is responsible for promoting and coordinating the implementation of the policy, providing training for staff, and liaising with external agencies as necessary.
- All staff are responsible for modelling respectful behaviour, supporting children to understand their rights, and embedding the approach into curriculum planning, policies, and procedures.
- Children have a responsibility to respect the rights of others, express themselves, and contribute to decision-making processes within the school.



### **Rights Respecting Curriculum:**

Our curriculum consists of cross-curricular links that are underpinned by the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Global Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, our Pupil Voice programme is designed to enable pupils to have a say in their learning and personal development and feel that they are an integral part of the school community. Our curriculum encourages pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of the key principles of human rights, equality, and respect.
- Learn about the diversity of the world we live in and foster positive attitudes towards differences in cultures and beliefs.
- Think critically and to promote fairness and social justice.

### **Implementation:**

The following strategies will be implemented to ensure the policy is effective:

- Rights-respecting training will be provided for all staff, governors, and volunteers.
- The school curriculum will embed a rights-based approach to teaching and learning.
- Children will be given opportunities to discuss, debate, and express their views in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Meetings of the school council will be based on a rights-respecting approach so that children can influence decisions made at the school.
- Regular feedback from children and staff will be collected to ensure the policy is working effectively.
- The policy will be regularly reviewed and updated

### **Pupil Voice:**

We understand the importance of pupil voice and encourage our pupils to express their opinions on a range of issues that directly impact them. Pupils are engaged in a variety of forums such as school council, class councils, and pupil questionnaires, etc. We believe that pupils should have an active role in shaping their own educational journey and play a part in the wider school community.

### **School Council:**

Our School Council provides a channel for the pupils' voice and gives them the opportunity to openly discuss their thoughts and ideas with their peers and school leaders. The School Council meets regularly, and actions are shared with the wider community. Members of the council are democratically elected and take part in training to support their role.



# Walthamstow Primary Academy

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## **Learning Environment:**

At Walthamstow Primary Academy, we believe that the environment in which our pupils learn should be safe, supportive, and inclusive. Pupils and staff are encouraged to treat one another with respect and dignity, and the principles of human rights, equality, and inclusion are a part of everyday school life.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

We regularly audit our practices to ensure that our Rights Respecting and Pupil Voice Policy is integrated into all aspects of school life. Our progress towards achieving Gold UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School Award is monitored and evaluated by our school governing body.

Incorporating a Rights Respecting approach into the school's policy can help meet these expectations, by ensuring that pupils are supported to learn effectively and confidently in a safe and supportive environment. It also ensures that pupils are encouraged to take an active role in decision-making processes that affect their lives, which can help them to develop important skills such as self-awareness, empathy, and respect.