**UNICEF Press Release for RRSA Silver Award**

15 June 2023

**Portaferry Integrated Primary School receives the prestigious UNICEF UK Silver RRS Award**

Portaferry Integrated Primary School has been awarded the Silver [Rights Respecting School Award](https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/) by UNICEF UK.

UNICEF is the world’s leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children’s rights and encouraging adults, children, and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Silver is given to schools that make excellent progress towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum. There are over 1,300 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales that have achieved Silver and over 600 schools that have been awarded Gold, the next step up and highest accolade granted by UNICEF UK.

The school has been working with UNICEF UK since September 2021, and awarded the Bronze: Rights Committed Award in January 2022. Having received the Silver: Rights Aware Award today, we now look towards achieving Gold.

### Headteacher of Portaferry Integrated PS, Mrs. Allen, has said: “We are very proud to have gained the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award which recognises the hard work the pupils, staff and the Board of Governors have put in to learning about the rights our pupils enjoy. The RRSA has had such a positive impact on our school now that children can confidently talk about their rights and have a deeper understanding of differing experiences around the world and in their own communities”.

Rights Respecting Schools Co-Ordinator of Portaferry Integrated PS, Miss McCarthy, has said:“As a Silver Rights Respecting School, we have developed a culture of rights and respect at the heart of everything we do, which has had the impact of raising children’s well-being, participation, relationships and self-esteem. It is wonderful to be recognised for our clear commitment and passion to the values that underpin the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In line with our school vision, Portaferry Integrated PS truly believes that together we achieve more and the rights respecting schools campaign aligns well with that”.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school’s planning, policies, and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children’s rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

The [UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools](https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/about-the-rrsa/) initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. Currently, it works with nearly 5,000 primary schools, secondary schools, schools for children and young people with special educational needs and pupil referral units across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Schools have reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, relationships and well-being by enhancing pupils’ self-esteem, leading to less truancy and bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.

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