

RRSA REACCREDITATION REPORT

GOLD: RIGHTS RESPECTING

School:	St Martin's Primary School
Headteacher:	Clare Giles
RRSA coordinator:	Clare Giles
Local authority:	Guernsey Education Department
School context:	530 children are on roll and 21% of children are eligible for Uniform Allowance. 16.2% of pupils are on the SEND register and 5% of children speak English as an additional language.
Attendees at SLT meeting:	Headteacher, assistant headteacher, maths and RRSA lead, and inclusion lead
Number of children and young people spoken with:	Group 1: 22 children from Y3 to Y6 Rights Squad Group 2: 39 children from Y2 to Y6
Adults spoken with:	10 members of the teaching staff, 3 parents, Guernsey's Road Safety Officer, a Deputy and 2 members of Guernsey's Health Improvement Commission
Key RRSA accreditations:	Bronze achieved: May 2019 Silver achieved: March 2020 Gold achieved: March 2021
Assessor:	Sarah Hodgkinson
Date:	8 th February 2024

REACCREDITATION OUTCOME

Outcomes for Strands A, B and C have all been achieved.

St Martin's Primary School continues to meet the standard for UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award at Gold: Rights Respecting.

1. STRENGTHS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is based on a virtual reaccreditation visit. The assessor would like to thank the children, the Senior Leadership Team, and staff for their warm welcome to the school, for the opportunity to speak with adults and children during the assessment and for the detailed evidence provided to support the process. Prior to the accreditation visit, the school completed a comprehensive School Evaluation: Gold form and provided a good range of digital evidence.

It was evident that children's rights are embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life.

Strengths of the school include:

- There is an excellent depth of knowledge of rights across the school community and children use the language around rights in a mature and reflective way.
- A positive, happy learning environment in which the school's longstanding commitment to children's rights is deeply embedded in the school's ethos and curriculum.
- Continued commitment by the whole school to place the CRC at the heart of policy and practice. After many years of engagement with the Rights Respecting Schools Award, there is still innovation and creativity in the way it is taken forward and adapted.
- The empowerment of children to be campaigners for their rights and the rights of others, with a notable success being the School Street campaign, culminating in the forthcoming change of law in Guernsey.

Our experience has shown that there are actions that have proven useful in other RRSA schools and settings in helping them to maintain and build on their practice at Gold level. Here are our recommendations for your school:

- Ensure there is a clear plan in place to ensure the sustainability of the excellent rights respecting practice.
- Continue the work that has begun on ensuring positive representation of our diverse society throughout the curriculum and continue to develop understanding and celebration of diversity in all its forms. Consider working alongside another Gold school in a contrasting area of the UK to facilitate this.
- Further develop children's understanding of what it means to be a rights respecting global citizen, thinking particularly of challenging stereotypes and discrimination and living sustainably. Support pupils to be informed about the world and current affairs so that they are critical thinkers and challenge discrimination and stereotypical attitudes.
- Continue to act as ambassadors for rights and the RRSA through your networks and in collaboration with the LA and local schools.

2. VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

STRAND A	Highlights and comments
<p>The United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC) is made known to children, young people and adults who use this shared understanding to work for improved child wellbeing, school improvement, global justice, and sustainable living.</p>	<p>Children spoke passionately and articulately about their rights and demonstrated excellent depth and breadth of knowledge about the Convention and the nature of rights. All pupils understand that rights are inherent, indivisible, inalienable, unconditional and universal. A Year 4 child explained, <i>"We are really lucky to be able to access our rights because not everybody can."</i> The extent to which rights and rights respecting languages is embedded in day-to-day life of the school is impressive. The St Martin's tagline, 'Being different, succeeding together,' is rooted in the CRC and children and staff refer to this regularly. One child explained, <i>"You see rights everywhere around school,"</i> and another child added, <i>"It's even in our tagline."</i> There continues to be a passionate commitment to children's rights from all duty bearers and this ensures the Convention is evident in all aspects of school life. The headteacher commented that, <i>"...we live and breathe the CRC."</i> Parents spoke passionately about the school's work on children's rights and one parent shared how it has helped their child to become, <i>"...more independent of thought and action,"</i> and another parent added how their child feels, <i>"...empowered, and rights gives them a framework for their thinking and helps them to become more worldly aware."</i></p>
STRAND B	Highlights and comments
<p>Actions and decisions affecting children are rooted in, reviewed and resolved through rights. Children, young people, and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation; this includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners and promotes wellbeing</p>	<p>Since the previous Gold RRSA accreditation, the school has revisited its Behaviour Policy. The headteacher explained, <i>"We have talked a lot about dignity in our Behaviour Policy and that has come from our rights respecting work."</i> Relationships at St Martin's are clearly based on mutual respect and trust. Learning about rights is continuing to affect relationships in a positive way. A Year 2 child explained, <i>"Everyone in our school is treated with dignity and kindness."</i></p> <p>Pupils feel safe and secure and are confident in the ways in which staff support their safety and wellbeing. One child commented, <i>"There is a group of duty bearers that you can talk to, and the Inclusion Team,"</i> and another child added, <i>"Every breaktime we have at least two duty bearers to keep us safe."</i> Children and staff shared how there are regular conversations to discuss wellbeing and what to do if you need support. A child explained, <i>"We have check-ins every half term so they can find out if things aren't going well,"</i> and another child added, <i>"You could literally just tell anyone."</i> Staff explained how the Inclusion Team includes an emotional wellbeing leader who regularly review ways in which they can, <i>"...meet the needs of each child in a holistic way."</i></p> <p>Children are supported and encouraged to celebrate diversity throughout school life. Year 5 children work with the Let's Go Mobility Initiative to regularly support adults with disabilities in the community and Year 3 children are regular visitors to a day centre for elderly residents. Staff shared how this helps children to understand that <i>"... what you need to succeed might be different to what someone else needs."</i> Staff work hard to promote diversity through their work on children's rights. The headteacher commented, <i>"We live on an island and we need diversity and challenge so that children see the bigger things. We have worked very hard to open the doorway to the wider world."</i></p>

	Another member of staff added that learning about rights has, "...opened up a whole discussion about life outside of Guernsey."
STRAND C	Highlights and comments
Children are empowered to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others locally and globally. Duty bearers are accountable for ensuring children experience their rights.	<p>Pupils at St Martin's are confident and articulate and know that they have a voice and are engaged in school improvement and campaigning at a local and global level. The headteacher explained, <i>"It's about children being game-changers, locally and globally. They have a passion, and they can use their voice."</i> Children regularly lead assemblies about topics that they are passionate about. Pupil voice has brought about changes in the school such as better privacy for older pupils getting changed, the organisation of two separate libraries, and the reintroduction of split assemblies in the hall.</p> <p>The remarkable success of the School Street campaign has empowered children throughout the school to see the impact of using their voices and what can be achieved. Since 2019 the Rights Squad have been campaigning for safer and cleaner conditions in which to arrive and leave school. This campaign has gone from strength to strength. Pupils explained, <i>"We shut down our school street to ensure that everyone is safe which is Article 19,"</i> and another child added, <i>"...we want to reduce carbon emissions which is linked to Article 24 so hopefully that will slow climate change."</i></p> <p>Pupils explained how they had to convince representatives from the Traffic and Highway Services to close the road during school drop-off times and how they wrote letters to local residents informing them of the change. The School Street Initiative is now being used as a model for other local schools and one child added, <i>"It is going to become an actual law in May."</i> A member of the Traffic and Highways Services explained, <i>"I was asked to attend one of the Rights Squad's meetings. We investigated options and gave them some jobs to do, such as traffic counts, and the Rights Squad were heavily involved in talking to the Parish Constables as well."</i></p> <p>A parent explained, <i>"I cannot overstate how directly involved the children were all the way through the process. It was phenomenal,"</i> and then added, <i>"They worked in such an impressive way together, they listened to each other, were very democratic and so well-informed."</i> A parent also explained how they use the success of the School Street campaign as an example in their professional life, <i>"...I use it as an amazing example of community-led success and demonstrating that change is possible."</i> In October 2023, the school community won the Pride of Guernsey Award for 'Sustainability Hero of the Year' in recognition of their work to improve road safety and the environment. Another parent commented, <i>"My eldest child left St Martin's with such a knowledge and passion for rights that they helped their Secondary School achieve RRSA Gold."</i> An ex-pupil stated, <i>"I am proud to be an ambassador for children's rights,"</i> and another ex-pupil commented, <i>"I am proud to know and use the CRC to improve the lives of children."</i> A Year 6 child stated, <i>"I enjoy going to a Rights Respecting School because we are allowed to voice our opinions and make things better. We can make a change!"</i></p>