



Hillside School and Nursery

October 2022



The Rights Edition

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Hillside School's October newsletter, which we are referencing as 'The Rights Edition'. In doing so, information throughout aims to highlight the work that we are doing to learn about and promote children's rights. Rights are things that we need to survive, grow and develop and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) lists these rights in the form of 'articles'. Countries around the world follow the UNCRC in a commitment to protecting children by realising their rights.

In Scotland, the UNCRC is due to be incorporated into law, it underpins our wellbeing approach 'Getting it Right for Every Child' and schools are expected to explore children's rights as part of learning and teaching. There are many ways Hillside School and Nursery highlights the rights of the child and to help recognise our progress we are signed up to UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award programme.

Hillside currently hold a Bronze Award which means that our school has shown that we are committed to respecting children's rights. We are proud to announce that we are now on our journey to Silver and hope to achieve this by the end of the year! We are working hard to show that we know and understand rights, and encourage

adults and children alike to respect the rights of others.

Our newly establish Rights Respecting Steering Group, led by Mr Smith (Acting Principal Teacher), is helping prepare the school for an accreditation visit and we hope that as you read on, you too see that that we are well on our way!

Kind regards,

Lesley-Anne Munro & Jordan Leslie
Head Teachers

Thanks to Mr Smith for assisting with this month's newsletter.

Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group



Our steering group meet fortnightly (each Wednesday) to review our action plan for achieving the Silver Award. We then make next steps and carry out tasks which help to drive discussion and make children's rights visible within school. Representatives are made up of children from Primary 4 to 7 who were voted for by individual classes.

Currently, the RRS Steering Group are:

- Working on displays around the school.
- Promoting rights through activities and events.

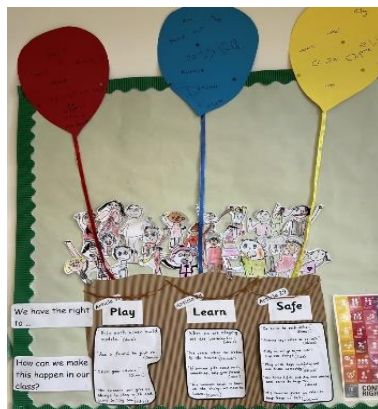
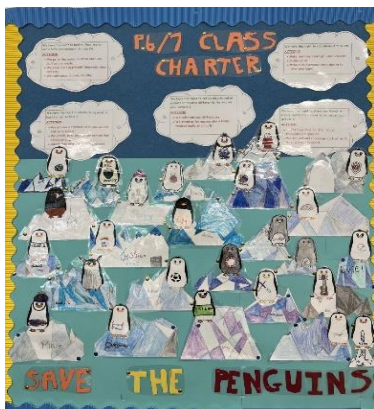
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Charters

Every class in our school has an individual class charter. Each class decided on a group of articles which were deemed 'most relevant' (even though no one right is more important than another). A charter helps us reflect on what we need, and actions to take in class, to ensure everyone feels that their rights are met.

Each class has collaboratively designed and created a display. Below you can see an example from each zone.



Pupil Council



We are happy to announce that we have our Pupil Council in place for session 2022 - 2023. This year, the group will be supported by Mrs Burnett.

The Pupil Council has been looking at what is working well at Hillside School and what we could do to improve. We are enjoying assemblies being back together in the hall and seeing all the teachers again.

The Pupil Council are currently:

- Looking to purchase some outdoor resources to keep us busy at the pitch in the colder weather.
- Looking to support Children in Need in November and have some initial ideas. Watch this space...

Nursery

Our Nursery spend time talking about what we need too. The Nursery has a display that can be referenced to help these discussions using widgets. At Nursery we are safe, play and learn.

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Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Hillside School's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were formed to help promote positive behaviours across the school community. Over the past few assemblies, group members have been awarded badges to wear and delivered a presentation to the school about how the group links to rights and what we can do to ensure our rights are met.

The anti-bullying ambassadors are currently:

- Promoting a mascot competition (entries due Friday 14th October 2022).
- Promoting 'Odd Sock Day' (Monday 14th November 2022). This is in line with the antibullying alliance, with the aim of celebrating what makes us all unique and to remind us to spread kindness!

Digital Leaders



Our Digital Leaders group, led by Mrs Lindsay, help support technology resources around the school and promote digital learning. This week they presented at assembly focusing particularly on the need to stay safe when using technologies and the internet. All pupils earned a marble in their jar for their commitment and efforts.

As we move into Term 2, Digital Leaders will be:

- Focusing on three key areas- maintenance of equipment, staff training and Pupil Support Training.
- Working on supporting Interactive Learning Diary uploads.

Article 19 – Children have the right to be safe.

Clubs

At Hillside School, we are very lucky that we have had many teachers over the years who have given up their own time to facilitate various clubs.

Currently we have:

- Mrs Lindsay leading Into Film Club and Coding Club.
- Miss Gibb leading our school choir. The choir are already in the early stages of practising Christmas tunes for upcoming events (yes that time of year is approaching 😊). We can also share that our choir will be performing at the P&J LIVE as part of the Evening Express Christmas Concert.

In addition, there are plans for a lunch time LEGO group led for Primary 2 next term, which started as a suggestion from an enthusiastic Primary 2 pupil.

We are delighted to also announce future plans for a netball club in collaboration with Active schools, with our very own Mrs Elder.

Our pupils also help support clubs across the school. Thanks to a Primary 7 pupil, we have successfully launched a Primary 5-7 Chess Club which has seen a fantastic uptake! The Hillside Parent Group have agreed to purchase some additional chess resources to support with this - we are always very grateful for such support, thank you HPG.

Article 15 – Children have the right to meet others and join clubs

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Assemblies

One of the highlights of this session so far has been getting the school back together, in person, for assemblies.

Each Tuesday, Primary 4/5-7 gather at 1.15pm and Primary 1-4 gather at 2.15pm.

It has also been good to welcome back visitors and listen to presentations. This term, we were delighted to welcome back our local Reverend from Portlethen Parish Church who spoke about looking after each other and our world.

Other topics explored include positive behaviours, Harvest, remembering Queen Elizabeth II, rights of the child and resilience.

If you think you would like to contribute to our assemblies in some way, do feel free to get in touch.

Community Café

With COVID mitigations lifting throughout the year, it has been lovely to bring people together again and invite the community into our building once more.

Primary 7L this term relaunched our Community Café to great success, and a wonderful turnout- thank you to all that were able to attend. In doing so, a massive £420.84 was raised! Profit raised will support a Ukrainian Refugee Charity (10 percent), our defibrillator maintenance and other areas yet to be determined.

During the Community Café, many talents were on display, entertaining those in attendance. A group also delivered a rights-based presentation, spreading the word to community members of the importance of children's rights.

Article 29 – Children have the right to an education which develops talents and encourages you to respect other people's rights.

Library

We are thrilled to finally announce the official opening of the Hillside School Library. Countless hours of work from pupils and volunteers have ensured that all classes have been able to visit our new library, taking books away, for the first time in almost three years. Having a useable library in our school is a great example of children accessing their rights to information (Article 17) and education (Article 28).

Within our library we are also supporting the Umbrella Project which 'aims to raise awareness of and to celebrate the 'umbrella' term of neurodiversity, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyspraxia.'

Thank you to Kerry Kidd and Colleen MacInnes for funding this wonderful display.

Finally, we would like to thank ex-pupils Zara, Abisola, Crystal and Obuma who spent every lunch time in their final term with us last year organising our books and donations. We have unveiled a plaque to recognise their dedication, which can be seen the next time you are in our building at the library.

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**Article 28 –
Children have
the right to
learn.**

Vision, Values & Aims

As part of Hillside's School Improvement Plan, we are developing our Vision, Values and Aims. We are always keen to seek pupil voice wherever possible with school improvement aims and therefore presented all classes, Primary 1-7, with a class challenge this term - to discuss, write or draw about your dream school, showcasing what children feel is important when thinking about their experiences, values and learning. From postcards to letters, portraits to e books, we were delighted with the response. Common themes, words and ideas will now be collated for further reflection. You can have a look at a selection of these on our school notice board when you are next in the building. Our Nursery children also reflected on what is important to them in nursery through interactions with their EYPs and through the development of a floor book.

**Article 12 – Children have
the right to an opinion and
to be listened to.**

Celebrating Diversity at Hillside School

As part of Religious and Moral education, Hillside School aims to explore a range of beliefs, values, celebrations, customs and practices from around the world. As we reflect on current approaches, we would be grateful to receive parent/carer feedback to further account for, and celebrate, Hillside's religious and cultural diversity.

Our brief questionnaire can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you in advance to anyone that provides feedback, we always appreciate it.

**Article 14 – Children have
the right to think and
believe what they want,
and to practice their
religion.**

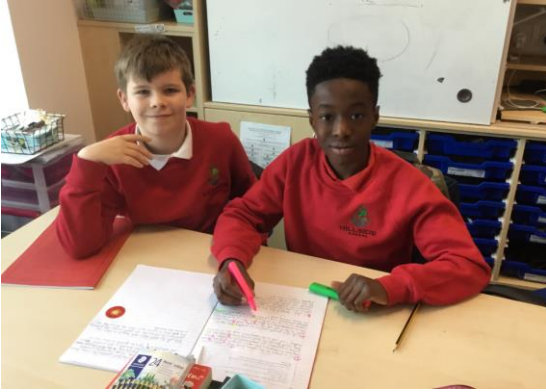
Twitter

**Remember to follow us on
Twitter @schoolhillside1
and @hs_nursery. There
you will find lots of
examples of children
enjoying their rights.**

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The right to learn



The right to be safe



The right to be with others and join groups

The Right to relax and play



The right to develop our skills and abilities



Useful Links

[UNICEF's Right Respecting Schools Award Website](#)

[Active Schools Website - Aberdeenshire](#)

Dates for the Diary

- Return to school (beginning of term 2) - Monday 31st October 2022
- Odd sock day - Monday 14th November 2022
- INSET days (children do not attend school during these dates) - Thursday 17th & Friday 18th November 2022
- Christmas Fayre- Thursday 1st December 2022 (more information to follow)