

Activity 4

Rights in the classroom

You'll need

- **Resource Sheet 1** Class charter of rights (enlarge and display)
- Paper and pencils
- Flipchart or whiteboard

Aim

To encourage children to think about rights in the classroom and to identify behaviour that respects human rights.

Age 7

40 minutes

What to do

Explain that everyone at school has the right to learn, be safe and be treated fairly. It is also important to behave in a way that is respectful of the human rights of others.

Rights

Ask the pupils what can be done in their classroom to make sure that everyone is enjoying their right to:

- be safe;
- be treated fairly;
- learn.

Ask them to work on their own to write up three things that will help these rights, eg:

The right to be **SAFE** – dangerous things to be put away
The right to be **TREATED FAIRLY** – all get a turn
The right to **LEARN** – enough books and paper

Next, in pairs, children should pool their ideas and agree on the best three between them. Now hold a class discussion and draw up a class list of up to 10 items on the board or flipchart that they all agree on. This is their **Class charter of rights**.

Show and discuss Resource Sheet 1 *Class charter of rights* drawn up by Year 6 pupils from a school in Hampshire. What do they think of their ideas? Would they add or change anything? Have they thought about everyone who uses this classroom, eg teachers, other classes, cleaners?

Respecting human rights

Explain that everyone in school has the right to learn and be safe and be treated fairly. If that is a right for us, then it is a right for everyone else too. It is important that we behave in a way that means everyone can enjoy their rights.

Discussion

As a class, discuss some of the following:

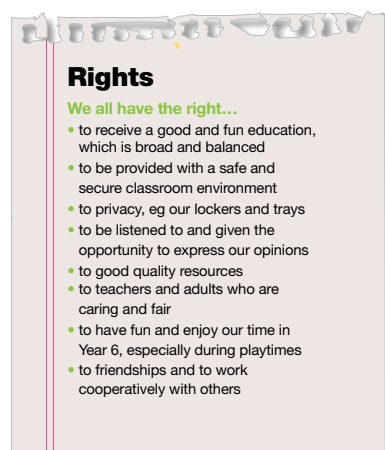
- Can you think of some examples of people disrespecting other people's human rights? Why do some people behave that way? Discussion task: What can they do to make up for disrespecting others' rights?
- How can we avoid behaving unfairly and disrespecting the rights of others?
- How does it feel to have your rights disrespected by others?

Can the children agree on how to behave to respect everyone's rights?

Extension/homework

- In groups, children can make lists of rights and behaviours in the playground, at home or in the community.

NOTE: For further information on developing class charters see the advice developed by UNICEF as part of their Rights Respecting Schools Award programme. www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources



Source: *Our World Our Rights*, Activity 1.

Class charter of rights

Think about your own class list of rights. This charter was drawn up by Year 6 pupils from a school participating in the Hampshire Rights, Respect, Responsibility initiative.

Rights

We all have the right...

- to receive a good and fun education, which is broad and balanced
- to be provided with a safe and secure classroom environment
- to privacy, eg our lockers and trays
- to be listened to and given the opportunity to express our opinions
- to good quality resources
- to teachers and adults who are caring and fair
- to have fun and enjoy our time in Year 6, especially during playtimes
- to friendships and to work cooperatively with others