

PRESS RELEASE

May 2021

St Edward's Church of England Academy in Leek receives prestigious UNICEF UK Award

St Edward's Church of England Academy in Leek is to be awarded the Silver Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF UK.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting School 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 1200 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have achieved Silver and over 500 schools that have been awarded Gold, the next step up and highest accolade granted by UNICEF UK.

Principal of St Edward's Church of England Academy, Tom Hutchinson, said: "We are very proud to have gained the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award which recognises the hard work the pupils, staff and trustees have put in to learning about the rights our pupils enjoy. The RRSA has a positive impact on pupils and the Academy as a whole – encouraging discussion, helping pupils to articulate their views and ensuring they learn about the experiences of children around the world."

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 initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. This year the programme has received additional support from The People's Postcode Lottery. This vital funding is helping UNICEF UK continue its work with over 4500 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 pupil's self-esteem, leading to less truancy and bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.

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For further information or photography please contact:

Rebecca Rose 01538 714740 office@st-edwards.staffs.sch.uk

For further details about UNICEF UK and RRSA, please contact:

Samantha Bradey, UNICEF UK Communication and Resources Manager
+44 (0)20 7375 6119 SamanthaB@unicef.org.uk

Notes for editors:

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) raises funds for UNICEF's emergency and development work for children. We also promote and protect children's rights in the UK and internationally. We are a UK charity, entirely funded by supporters.

United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK), Registered Charity No. 1072612 (England & Wales), SC043677 (Scotland).

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About the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award

UNICEF UK works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as our guide, we are working with more UK schools than almost any other organisation. 1.6 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and more than 4,500 schools up and down the country are working towards the Award.