

PRESS RELEASE

25th June 2019

Ryders Hayes School, Walsall receives prestigious Unicef UK GOLD Award

Ryders Hayes School in Walsall has been awarded prestigious 'Gold' status by Unicef UK's for recognition of their Rights Respecting School programme. 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. Gold is the highest accolade given by Unicef UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. There are over 400 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have received Gold.

The school has been working with Unicef UK since July 2017. They received their Silver certificate in April 2018. Ryders Hayes School were awarded their Gold certificate to mark their achievement on 21st June 2019, the first school in Walsall.

Headteacher of Ryders Hayes School Mrs Sally Miner, said 'At Ryders Hayes there is a clear commitment and passion from all stakeholders that the school's ethos, values and strategic development are underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is a school where *'Children's rights are lived every day'*.

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. The Unicef assessor recognised that this Rights Respecting School is a community where 'children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.'

Programme Director, Frances Bestley said:

"Ryders Hayes Primary School has very much impressed us with the way in which children learn in an environment that encourages and empowers them to make a difference both at home and around the world. We've seen how pupils understand their rights and show respect for each other, show a strong desire to make a difference to the lives of children in countries around the world, and regularly fundraise for projects in their community and globally. Ryders Hayes Primary School has fully embraced the Convention on the Rights of the Child and we are honoured to accredit the school as Gold: Rights Respecting."

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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Notes for editors:

***About the Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award**

Unicef 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.

About Ryders Hayes School

Ryders Hayes School is large primary school in Pelsall, with over 520 children from the ages of 2-11 years. It is also a Teaching School, working with schools, leaders and teachers across the Black Country, using the latest research to bring about school improvement and to ensure that every child attends a good school.

About Unicef

Unicef is the world's leading organisation for children, promoting the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

Unicef UK raises funds to protect children in danger, transform their lives and build a safer world for tomorrow's children. As a registered charity we raise funds through donations from individuals, organisations and companies and we lobby and campaign to keep children safe. Unicef UK also runs programmes in schools, hospitals and with local authorities in the UK. For more information please visit unicef.org.uk.