



GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: **Mr Colin H Johnson BSc**



Dear Pupils/Parents/Carers

RRSA Gold Accreditation

We are delighted to inform you that after a visit from UNICEF we have now been accredited as a Gold Rights Respecting School - the first Secondary School in Renfrewshire to achieve the highest level of UNICEF's prestigious award!

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.



Our 'visit' from UNICEF on Wednesday 30th September was a virtual event, organised to the finest of detail by Mrs Davey, with assessors Gerry McMurtrie and Steven Kidd from UNICEF. Fortunately, we didn't experience too many technical hitches and they were able to meet with staff, pupils and parents across the day to hear about how rights are an integral part of everything we do at Gryffe High.

The assessors commented, "It was evident that children's rights are embedded across the school and are present in every facet of school life...some of the particular strengths of the school include the ownership and agency demonstrated by students in shaping their school, and the extensive range of opportunities available for the participation of pupils." As part of the process for Gold Accreditation, the evidence submitted and collated from the visit must be independently verified by a panel of Headteachers of gold schools from across the UK. As such, we didn't get the good news until we returned from the October break.

We would especially like to thank our dedicated Citizenship Committee, under the expert direction of Mrs Davey, who continue, year on year, to build on previous events, learning and awareness raising to ensure that all our pupils recognise their role in the world as Global Citizens and advocate for the rights of all children. Our Citizenship Heads from last session, Rowan Johnson and Aaron Mills, unfortunately did not get to see the fruits of their labour through to completion as a result of the lockdown, but Aaron was available on the day of our accreditation via video chat, and spoke to the assessors about all the hard work and input he had in moving us towards Gold.

Our Citizenship Committee this year, with Catherine Abdallah and Jenny Boyd at the helm, have already made a roaring start, not only gaining our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award and Level 1 Award as a Vision School for Holocaust Education, but also doubling our Citizenship Committee member numbers! The 30+ strong band of Rights Warriors have already spent the start of October promoting global diversity awareness with the goal of combating discrimination children face in the forms of racism, homophobia and sexism. This work is directly linked to the right ALL children have: to be *treated fairly, no matter who they are, where they are, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or a girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis*, Article 2, UNCRC.

CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING



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Gryffe High



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We would like to thank all pupils, staff and the wider school community for their efforts and participation in creating a school environment that is wholly in line with the promotion of children's rights. It is great honour to receive this UNICEF accolade, but at the same time we know that even without such recognition, our efforts to ensure that all children are treated with respect and dignity is what is fundamentally important when promoting our values of caring, learning and achieving at Gryffe High School.

A small reminder of some of our recent achievements:

Inspection – HM Inspectors agreed with our school self-evaluation of:

2.3 Learning, Teaching & Assessment	Very Good
3.2 Raising Attainment & Achievement	Excellent

Our self-evaluation, also verified by Renfrewshire Council, on the other two key Quality Indicators were:

1.3 Leadership of Change	Excellent
3.1 Improving Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion	Excellent

Our HM Inspection Report evaluates Gryffe High School as amongst the very best in Scotland, with HM Inspectors making specific comment on our 'Highly motivated, articulate and ambitious young people who have high aspirations.'

Very Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
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For comparison, the best Inspection Report in Scotland, for a full Inspection, since the revised Inspection Model in 2016, received 2 Very Goods, and 2 Excellents!

Attainment – For the last 10 years Gryffe High School's 3 year average results have increased across almost all key quality indicators EVERY single year. Results in 2020 maintained our consistent increase across all key benchmarks.

Achievements/Awards – either retained or awarded over the last 18 months

SportsScotland School Sport GOLD Award

Fairtrade Fair Achiever School Award

Digital Schools Scotland Award and updated Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Award

Eco Schools Green Flag – 3rd Award

In June Gryffe won Respect Me's '**Change Starts with Us**' Award.

Respect Me, Scotland's anti-bullying service, was launched in March 2007. The service is fully funded by the Scottish Government and is managed by SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) in partnership with LGBT Youth Scotland.

In August we also achieved the **Vision Schools Scotland Accreditation Award** – the first school in Renfrewshire, and third Secondary in Scotland, to be awarded this accolade.

... and now, in October, we have achieved **GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**, being the first Secondary School in Renfrewshire to gain the Award.

... Just a little reminder, that although we are working in different ways and meeting new challenges, our pupils continue to achieve and excel in so many ways. We are extremely proud of them.

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