



UNICEF & SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Rights Respecting Schools Award Update Nov 2022

Since May 2022, the Scottish government has been supporting UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) initiative, with the aim of offering the programme to every state primary and secondary school in Scotland.

Through this partnership, the Scottish government is offering a grant which will help schools to register for the Award. This grant will also help schools access all training, support and accreditations related to RRSA until March 2025.

As a result, [this partnership is removing financial barriers for any school in Scotland](#) that wishes to pursue the RRSA, making a huge difference for children.

Through our partnership, we have made some incredible achievements, including:

- Since the start of our partnership, **335 new schools have registered for the RRSA**, surpassing our March 2023 target almost five months ahead of schedule.
- During this partnership, **121 schools have achieved Bronze accreditation**, while 71 schools have achieved Silver and 34 have achieved Gold accreditation.
- We have **developed good working relationships with 28 out of Scotland's 32 local authorities** – up from 20 local authorities before the partnership was launched.

Impacts of the RRSA

The RRSA is a key tool for integrating children's rights within schools, **enshrining the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as a guiding principle** within the school environment.

Our research shows that the RRSA helps children learn about their own rights, making pupils feel more protected, valued and respected.

The scheme also teaches children to recognise the rights of others, which helps to **create a culture of respect within schools**.

Children feel safe and cared for, and they feel that their voices are heard and valued.

This inclusive school community benefits both children and adults, as the scheme can improve the wellbeing of teachers and staff members too.

This scheme **creates a shared sense of community and belonging**, encouraging children to take their right to education seriously.

Finally, the RRSA scheme creates a sense of global citizenship. The award helps children believe that they can change the world for the better.

The partnership between UNICEF and the Scottish government is making a huge difference for children across the country. On the behalf of every child you have helped to support, Thank You.

Results to Date

Between May and December, we have enrolled an additional 335 schools within the RRSA programme in Scotland.

In total, 1,648 schools across the country are currently enrolled in the scheme. This includes 1,328 primary schools (66 % of all eligible schools) and 289 secondary schools (73 % of eligible schools).

Overall, **520,834 students are currently engaged through RRSA activities in schools across Scotland.**

Of the schools currently enrolled in the RRSA programme, 556 schools have reached Bronze accreditation, while 417 have reached Silver, and 196 have reached Gold accreditation.

A full breakdown of the results by authority area, as of November 2022, are listed below:

Local Authority	Number of Schools Enrolled	Proportion of Schools Enrolled
Aberdeen City Council	43	65%
Aberdeenshire Council	99	59%
Angus Council	44	76%
Argyll and Bute Council	50	58%
City of Edinburgh Council	106	82%
Clackmannanshire Council	6	27%
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	21	88%
Dumfries and Galloway Council	76	71%
Dundee City Council	32	71%
East Ayrshire Council	48	89%
East Dunbartonshire Council	28	60%
East Lothian Council	34	83%
East Renfrewshire Council	30	97%
Falkirk Council	46	78%
Fife Council	83	54%
Glasgow City Council	117	62%
Inverclyde Council	27	90%
Midlothian Council	22	56%
North Ayrshire Council	58	97%
North Lanarkshire Council	121	85%
Orkney Islands Council	9	41%
Perth and Kinross Council	70	82%
Renfrewshire Council	37	60%
Scottish Borders Council	43	61%
Shetland Islands Council	11	38%
South Ayrshire Council	50	98%
South Lanarkshire Council	60	41%
Stirling Council	14	29%
The Highland Council	124	62%
The Moray Council	44	85%
West Dunbartonshire Council	16	41%
West Lothian Council	76	100%
Total	1,617	67%

Case Study: Perth and Kinross

In Perth and Kinross Council (PKC), RRSA activities are coordinated by the Children's Rights Officer (CRO), who works to embed the CRC in schools across the local authority.

Over the course of this partnership, the CRO has **carried out extensive training** across the local authority. As momentum in PKC increased, the CRO trained two local headteachers to carry out Silver assessments across the district.

Alongside this, the CRO has been carrying out Collaborative Conversations training for schools twice a year. The training sessions are designed to help schools to navigate the award and develop action plans, while providing a space for participants to ask questions and form new connections between schools.

Finally, the CRO has helped to **coordinate RRSA activities across the region**. They are part of a Learner Participation working group, which brings together a diverse range of stakeholders from across the district. This working group is helping to encourage meaningful participation across PKC.

As a result of these interventions, facilitated by UNICEF's partnership with the Scottish government, more than **80 % of schools across PKC** are actively engaging with the RRSA.

Looking Ahead

Going forward, we will continue to work towards our aim of offering the RRSA initiative to every eligible school and embedding the CRC in schools across Scotland.

We will continue to support schools with guidance, training and accreditation, and we will continue to provide training for local authority (LA) assessors, expanding the assessors' reach within each LA.

Alongside this, we will continue to **build strong and effective relationships with LAs** across Scotland. Our Strategic Leads Network brings together key figures from 26 LAs, providing a forum to discuss vision, roll-out and potential problems.

We will also **strengthen our partnerships with key local stakeholders**. We will continue to work with local charities and organisations – such as Highland One World and WOSDEC – to discuss synergies, support implementation and build valuable connections within and between communities.

Testimonials

"RRSA is part of who we are. It's our vision and values, our approach to nurture... it's our ethos. It threads through everything we do and pulls everything together. The evidence is all around the school."

Headteacher at RRSA-accredited school

"As teachers we are much more confident in rights and modelling that language in our conversations with children. It's really rewarding to know you are making a difference... it gives you that feel good factor."

Teacher at RRSA-accredited school

"RRSA is sustainable here because everyone is involved and can see the impact it makes."

RRSA Lead at an accredited school

"The children respond to things they see on the news, like setting up bake sales to raise money. The children's levels of empathy is outstanding."

Parent of a pupil at an RRSA-accredited school

"Pupil voice is so important, as is supporting each other as staff to make sure we are doing what's right for the children. There is a real culture of respect here."

RRSA Lead at an accredited school

As a member of Education Scotland's Rights and Participation Network, we are **encouraging local and national stakeholders to embed the CRC within the school environment**, helping every child in Scotland to fully realise their rights.

Alongside this, we will continue to collaborate with key child rights and inclusion organisations across Scotland. This collaboration will offer invaluable insights into how we can expand, improve and scale up our programmes within schools in the future.

Finally, we will **continue to raise awareness of the scheme and encourage new schools across Scotland to enrol**.

For example, our RRSA newsletter is currently going out to all registered schools across the country. This newsletter provides valuable support and insights for schools, while also highlighting global events such as World Children's Day.

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