

Inverclyde Council area

Good practice: Rights Respecting School Awards

What was the identified issue ?

Chief Officers and the Inverclyde Child Protection Committee (ICPC) aim to ensure that children and young people fully enjoy their rights and as they grow and develop they will take on appropriate responsibilities alongside adults. The Rights Respecting Schools approach forms part of an overarching strategy to create a better life for everyone in Inverclyde.

What have staff in services done together?

UNICEF has developed Rights Respecting School Awards. These take 12 – 18 months to achieve. The Award scheme is an effective way of inspiring and supporting schools who want to provide children and young people, parents and the wider community with a rights respecting guide to living. It places the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of schools and children's services. A Children's Rights Officer supports schools to achieve the awards. So far, 4 primary schools and a special school have achieved the Advanced Award. In July 2010, St Columba's Secondary School became the first mainstream secondary school in Scotland to achieve the Level 1 award. Children in schools who have achieved the Advanced Award are trained as Young People Assessors so they can support other schools to become Rights Respecting Schools.

What are the benefits for children/young people and families?

Children's knowledge and levels of confidence about their rights have increased. Improved relationships and learning takes place between children, young people and staff in Rights Respecting schools. Children and young people's well-being has improved due to their increased ability to understand and articulate their rights and responsibilities and those of others. Children in Rights Respecting schools are leading conferences for parents and people who live and work in their communities.