

PRESS RELEASE: Educate Together Academy Trust celebrates two GOLD Rights Respecting Schools Awards, UNICEF's highest accolade

20th September 2022*



Educate Together Academy Trust are delighted to announce that two of our schools, Somerdale and Redfield, have both been awarded the prestigious UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools GOLD Award.

Somerdale is the first school in BANES and Redfield is one of only four in Bristol to have achieved the gold award, UNICEF's highest accolade, which is granted to schools that have fully embedded children's rights throughout the school in its policies, practice and ethos.

Both schools went through a rigorous assessment which looked at the whole school's rights respecting work and the impact that has been made through embedding children's rights into school life.

Assessors' reports stated,

"A strong school ethos and identity that prioritises equality, individuality and a child rights approach through the Learning Together curriculum. The school lives its values day to day and communicates them to the wider school community."

"Equality and inclusion are embedded into the school's ethos: 'No child an outsider'. Children understand what discrimination is and feel that they can "stand up and speak up" if someone is being discriminated against."

All ETAT schools are working towards achieving Rights Respecting status because it is a crucial part of our key educational principle – to be truly child centred and equitable. This means educating and empowering children to be aware of their rights and to grow into confident, articulate and socially responsible citizens. This is at the heart of everything we do.

Miriam Fredrickson-Barnaby, Director of Education at ETAT, said,

"Huge thanks to all the staff and children at both schools – these awards are a result of a huge amount of hard work and tremendous commitment to putting the Rights of the Child at the heart of all we do. The children clearly showed this to the assessors and were confident and articulate - we are very proud of them"

The [UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools](#) initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. Schools who have participated have reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, relationships and well-being by enhancing pupils' self-esteem, leading higher attendance, less bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.