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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are the Rights Respecting Group and our ultimate goal is to see children's rights further embedded within the curriculum here at Mintlaw Academy. This is a long term goal and to reach it we must continue to evolve as a school, building on the good practice that already takes place here and looking at new ways of improving whilst embedding the rights within our curriculum.

We are continually striving to promote an ethos which reflects UNICEF's 'Rights' Respecting School Award.' The award recognises schools that have put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of their planning, policies, practice and ethos. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the basis of all UNICEF's work and states that every child has the right to:

- a childhood (including protection from harm);
- be educated (including all girls and boys completing primary school);
- be healthy (including having clean water, nutritious food and medical care);
- be treated fairly (including changing laws and practices that are unfair on children);
- be heard (including considering children's views).

With this aim in mind, we are currently working towards our Bronze level Rights Respecting Schools award which marks the first step on our journey to ensure that we truly become a Rights Respecting School. We have established a steering group of pupils and teachers and are working towards ensuring all pupils, parents, teachers and the community understand the award and what it means for Mintlaw Academy.

Over the coming months, parents/carers can expect updates via the school website and newsletter about our progress. If any parents/carers or members of the community would like to become involved and work with us as part of the steering group, please contact: mintlawacademy.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

The Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group.