23 January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Rights and Respect**

We are writing to inform you of our work to date – and in the future – towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award. UNICEF works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens. The initiative - based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation - started in 2006 and schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and wellbeing, leading to better learning and behaviour and improved academic standards. You can find out more about UNICEFs Rights respecting School award at <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

We are using the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)](https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/introducing-the-crc/) as our guide, and plan to work with children to educate them on their rights, the rights of children globally and what *we* can do to support the rights of all children. The Award recognises a school’s achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond. The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools across the UK to embed children’s human rights in their ethos and culture.

At St Marys, we would like to set up a Steering Group to lead the actions of the whole school. The role of the Steering Group is to take the lead in developing and delivering the school’s rights respecting action plan, provide a link between children and young people, teachers, governors and the whole school community and to feed back to the school community about progress, including to the SMT, governors, staff and parents. As a parent in the Steering Group, we might expect that in the first phase you would meet three times a term, which would later reduce to twice a term. This would take place within the school day but if you are interested and are not available in the school during the day, please do let us know. If you would like to be part of our Steering Group, please inform the office and we will be in touch soon.

Louise Bray

PSHE lead