

PRESS RELEASE

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Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursey in Birmingham receives prestigious UNICEF UK Gold Award

Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School in Northfield, Birmingham has been awarded Gold by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School programme. UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. There are over 500 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have received Gold. Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School is only the 4th early years provider in the whole of the UK to achieved Gold.

The school has been working with UNICEF UK since 2017. They received their Silver certificate in July 2018. Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School have been awarded the Gold certificate and to mark their achievement staff and children celebrated with a 'Gold Celebration Day' on 28th April 2021.

Executive Headteacher of Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School, David Aldworth, said: 'I am so delighted to see Shenley Fields earn the Gold Rights Respecting School Award. The entire school community have worked together for many years; most recently throughout the challenges of the pandemic, to reach this milestone. It has been inspiring to see so many children confidently learn, enjoy and defend their rights, ably assisted by their parents, carers and practitioners in and out of school. This is an ongoing journey for the school as the rights afforded the children, within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, have been enshrined within the ethos of the school. I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to all stakeholders for their commitment, tenacity and passion'.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. This year the programme has received additional support from The People's Postcode Lottery. This vital funding is helping UNICEF UK continue its work with over 4500 primary schools, secondary schools, schools for children and young people with special educational needs and pupil referral units across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Schools have reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, relationships and well-being by enhancing pupil's self-esteem, leading to less truancy and bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.