



Firrhill News

Produced by the Parent Council

May 2019

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Gold: Rights Respecting Award

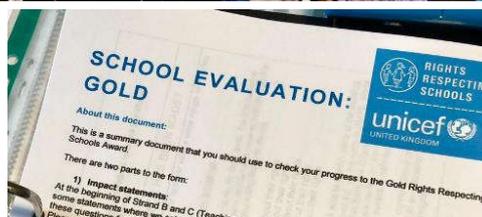
On 13 March Unicef UK's RRSA assessors visited Firrhill to meet pupils, staff and parents to assess our progress towards achieving the Gold: Rights Respecting Award. Everyone worked hard to be ready for the assessment. The RRSA group, led by teacher Mrs Kerr, have introduced lots of events focussed on the Rights of the Child over the past three years. On 12 April we became a Gold Rights Respecting School.



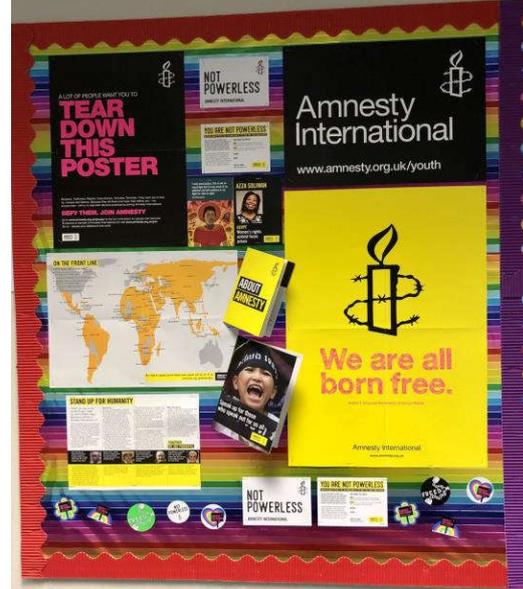
Members of the Eco Committee met the RRSA assessors. There is significant overlap in the elements both groups cover. Particularly as this year the Eco Committee has chosen global citizenship as one of its three topics, the others being school grounds and litter.



Special events included: food bank collections, Purple Friday, the book swap / give-away, Rag bag recycling unit, Holocaust Memorial Day assemblies, the anti-bullying and anti-littering campaigns, promoting "International Women's Day", Amnesty International, LGBTQ+ rights and more!



Well done to pupils and staff – on 16 April Firrhill became a Gold Rights Respecting School.



Gold: Rights Respecting is the highest stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. It is granted to schools which have fully embedded children's rights throughout the school and its policies, practice and ethos.



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Peru Expedition

In June 2020 there is the opportunity for 30 of our current S4 and S5 pupils to go on an exciting expedition to Peru, led by Outlook Expeditions. The expedition, run by Modern Studies teacher Rebecca Davidson, costs £3,995. All pupils are expected to work hard to fundraise for their trip. At present, the exact dates are subject to flight times that have not yet been released. The itinerary will include: trekking, exploration and volunteering, followed by rest and relaxation. Whilst some elements are still to be confirmed, what is guaranteed is: a physically challenging expedition, a degree of culture shock and an experience of being at altitudes of 3,500-4,700 m.



OUTLOOK EXPEDITIONS

The project phase will be volunteering with the "Azul Wasi" project for formerly homeless boys and girls. This was set up by a policeman in Cusco who wanted to create an alternative to the correctional facilities where street children often ended up. The pupils will help expand the accommodation space, but also teach games, English and help the children with their homework.

Peru is a Catholic, Spanish-speaking country. There are four geographical regions (east to west): the arid Pacific coast, altiplano desert interior, the Andes and

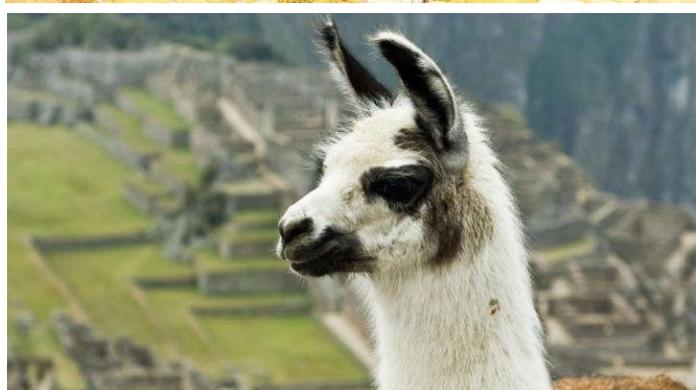


Thanks to our dedicated staff team who have made this fantastic expedition possible.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

There are four phases: acclimatisation, trekking, project and rest and relaxation.





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Vision Aid Overseas

Before the Easter break, Firrhill High School had its annual glasses and sunglasses collection for Vision Aid Overseas.

We also have several glasses collection boxes placed in the community: Oxgangs Library, Colinton Parish Church, Swanston Brasserie (the home of Swanston Golf Club) and Oxgangs Primary School. Since last Easter we have already collected 710 pairs of glasses and sunglasses. This is an amazing total and a simple way to reuse and recycle our unwanted spectacles whilst helping others.



2013	35 pairs
2014	86 pairs
2015	110 pairs
2016	150 pairs
2017	280 pairs
2018	360 pairs
2019	710 pairs



Vision Aid Overseas



Please donate your unwanted glasses to VAO – leave them at reception for Mrs Hargest. Your donation will change lives!

The Anne Frank Garden

The Anne Frank Garden looks at its best in spring when the daffodils, narcissi and crocuses flower. It is also a lovely place for relaxation and quiet reflection in summer.

Thanks to Mr Murray and the Nurture Group pupils who re-oiled the bench in the Anne Frank Garden. It looks fantastic!



In the school grounds, there are areas that were created by and are looked after by pupils, with staff and parental involvement. These are: the Pond, Anne Frank and Celebration Gardens and the meadow. Parents who would like to help should email carolyn.hargest@btconnect.com