

February 2018

Firrhill's Right of the Month – Article 8

This month, as we celebrate LGBT History Month at Firrhill, we have chosen to focus on **Article 8: you have the right to an identity** from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Identity, at the most basic level, includes our name, date of birth, nationality, and gender. It is how we show our individuality and freedom to express who we are, and who we wish to spend our lives with. When the right to an identity is not upheld; bigotry, intolerance and abuse can flourish. Those who look or sound different may find themselves targets of violent attacks, often based on race, sexuality, gender, religion and appearance.

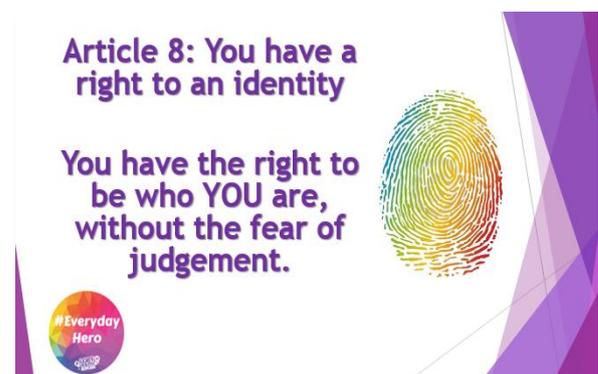
By upholding the right to an identity, it encourages an ethos of tolerance, mutual appreciation, and support for the general wellbeing and happiness of others. At Firrhill, we think it is important to take a stand for this.

LGBT History Month



The **Gender, Sexuality and Equality Alliance** at Firrhill hosted assemblies for all S1-S3 pupils this month to celebrate and raise awareness of LGBT History Month. This year's theme from LGBT Youth Scotland focused on #everydayHero; commending the person in your life or community whose small gestures promote an inclusive atmosphere for LGBT people. Members of the RRS pupil group highlighted the

importance of Article 8 during each assembly, speaking about discrimination based upon identity, and having the right to be who you are.



Reception and library displays



We have also been busy this month improving our **Rights Respecting displays** around the school, including a new display in the main reception area which includes pupil and staff questionnaires results from our recent Silver Award evaluation.

School librarian Mr McCann has also helped us raise more awareness of RRSA and LGBT

History Month with a library display area, which also has a range of books on themes relating to prejudice, sexuality and discrimination.



Silver: Rights Aware Award



Following our accreditation visit from Unicef UK assessors, Gerry McMurtrie and Jen Myddleton, we are pleased to announce that Firhill has been awarded with the **Silver: Rights Aware Award!** We are the first school in the UK to have achieved Silver under the new Unicef Rights Respecting Schools criteria.

The assessors were very impressed with the professionalism shown from both staff and pupils during the visit. They received a tour of the school, visiting Miss Davidson's 1st year Modern Studies class, and met with several of our young people and staff who have played an important part in promoting positive relationships, and an ethos of respecting the rights of all.

To prepare for the visit the pupil and staff RRS groups worked extremely hard to collate lots of evidence across lessons, focus groups, questionnaires, assemblies, and whole school events to showcase how the Convention has been embraced and embedded across the school. We are looking forward now to a more relaxing March and continuing our journey to Gold!

