

ON THE WEB

Human Rights in Education

www.rightsined.org.nz

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

Convention on the Rights of the Child

www.acya.org.nz/?t=43

Rights, Respect, Responsibilities (UK)

www3.hants.gov.uk/education/childrensrights

Human Rights Education Associates

www.hrea.org

Human Rights Education (Australia)

www.hreoc.gov.au/info_for_teachers

Youth for Human Rights (USA)

www.youthforhumanrights.org/watchads.psa02_h.html

Children's Rights Centre (Nova Scotia)

www.discovery.uccb.ns.ca/children

Amnesty International (USA)

www.amnestyusa.org/What_You_Can_Do/Educate/page.do?id=1102117&n1=4&n2=79

Lift Off! (Ireland)

www.liftoffschools.com

SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS

- Amnesty International
(www.amnesty.org.nz)
- Development Resource Centre
(www.drc.org.nz)
- Human Rights Commission
(www.hrc.co.nz)
- Office of the Children's Commissioner
(www.occ.org.nz)
- Peace Foundation
(www.peace.net.nz)

EDUCATION OF THE CHILD SHALL BE DIRECTED TO

- The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
 - The development of respect for human rights... the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
 - The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
 - The development of respect for the natural environment.
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, article 29

“All those involved in education in Aotearoa New Zealand recognise, and act on, their responsibility to ensure early childhood education centres and schools explicitly meet New Zealand's human rights aspirations and obligations”.

Initiative recommendation

For more information or to contribute your expertise, knowledge and experience... register at: www.rightsined.org.nz
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Human Rights
in Education
Mana Tika Tangata



Children from Grey Lynn Primary School

HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

**KNOW them
PROMOTE them
LIVE them**

www.rightsined.org.nz

HUMAN RIGHTS IN EDUCATION...

...Is a collaborative initiative aimed at developing New Zealand schools and early childhood education centres as communities that know, promote and live human rights and responsibilities.

As a country we aspire to provide an education for our children and young people that prepares them for a happy and productive life, in which they learn to have regard for others, in a setting in which they themselves are safe. These are human rights goals —although they are not always seen as such.

Human rights are an expression of human aspirations for dignity, equality, security and freedom to reach one's potential as a human being.

Exciting new research demonstrates how the whole-school/centre adoption of a human rights approach can lead to:

- Improved self-esteem
- Improved interpersonal relationships
- Improved teacher-satisfaction
- Reduced absenteeism
- Reduced bullying and vandalism
- Improved academic results

It prepares future citizens to understand their own rights, the rights of others, and their responsibilities.

A teacher asked her new class of Year 2 children, "What do you know about Rights, Respect and Responsibility?" The first reply was, "I have the right to learn and you have the right to teach."

Tavistock Infant School, Hampshire

THE INITIATIVE

Making things easier not harder.

A number of excellent programmes are currently running within centres and schools aiming to address specific human rights issues and problems such as bullying, discrimination, harassment and low achievement levels.

These existing programmes are encouraged as part of the Initiative but within an all-embracing framework in which all members of the school or centre community (children and young people, teachers, staff) know, promote and live human rights and responsibilities.

In participating centres and schools human rights and responsibilities become a major thread running through the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and the organisation & culture of the school/centre.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Learn about their rights and responsibilities (with reference when appropriate to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Are treated fairly and equitably and are not fearful of discrimination, bullying or harassment.
- Are encouraged to become respectful of others
- Are encouraged to express their views
- Participate in decisions that affect them

"All students to realise their full potential as individuals, and to develop the values needed to become full members of New Zealand's society."

New Zealand National Education Goal 1

"There is an intensity of personal involvement in a human rights community. It chooses to stay together despite the personal and communal stresses and tensions because of a belief in a greater goal."

Motu Kairangi Te Kohanga Reo

Although drawing on international experience in human rights-based education in Canada, Ireland and the UK (to name a few), the Initiative is developing a unique New Zealand approach to human rights that includes developing an understanding of the human rights dimensions of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

"Human rights education has given the students a maturity of thought and a capacity for critical thinking. They are able to think about the needs of other students and other communities."

Nayland College

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

"... A common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance."



Rangi Ruru Girls' School