

# INTRO TO RRSA



RIGHTS  
RESPECTING  
SCHOOLS

unicef   
UNITED KINGDOM

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# AGENDA

- What is RRSA?
- How does it work?
- Why Participate?
- Next steps...



# UNICEF AROUND THE WORLD

UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories and in the world's toughest places to reach the children and young people in greatest need

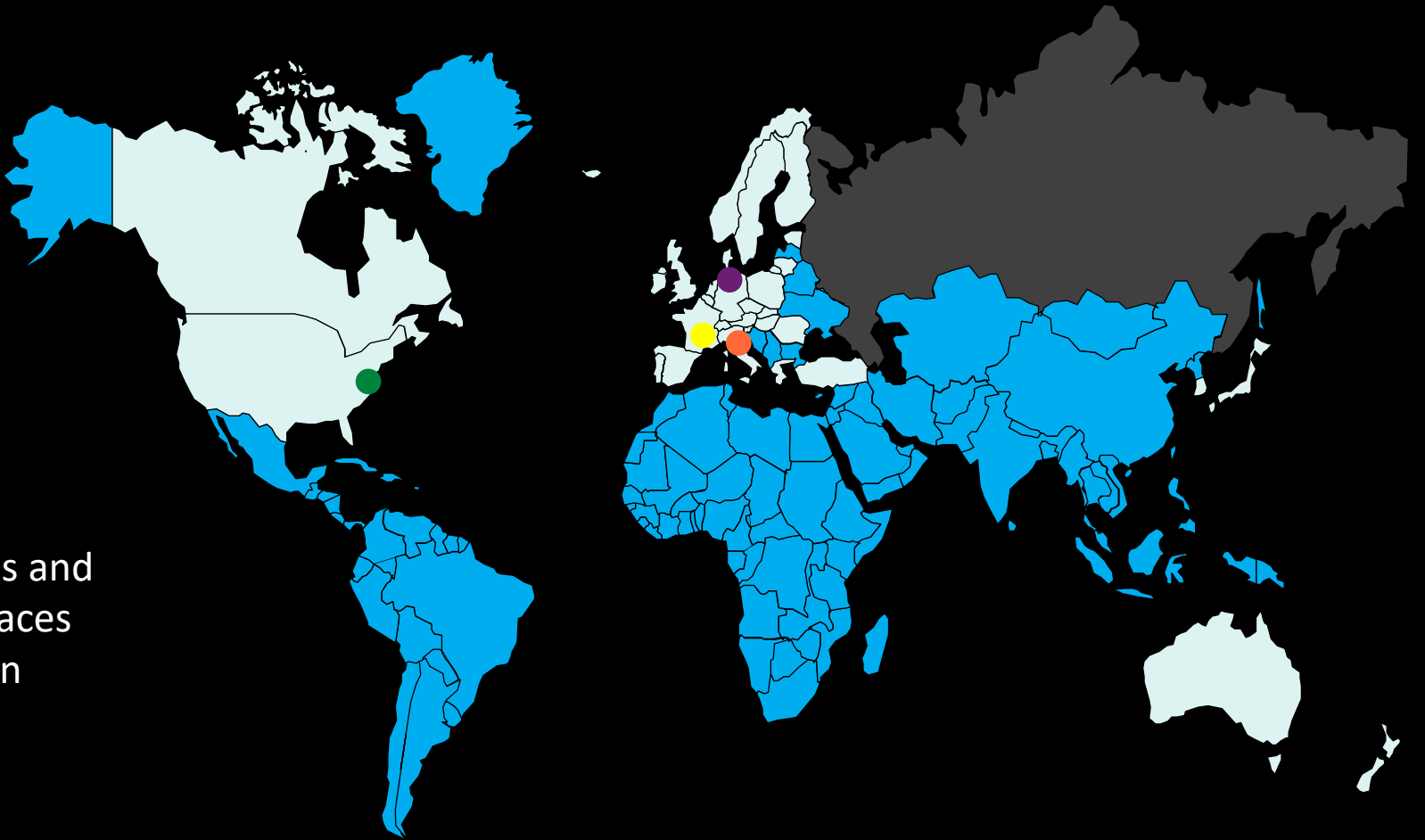
- PFP Geneva
- Innocenti Research Centre in Florence
- Supply Division in Copenhagen
- Headquarters in New York
- National Committees territories

**126**  
Country Offices

**36**  
National Committees

**10K+**  
Employees

**88%**  
Field Staff





# What is RRSA?



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## What is RRSA?

A Rights Respecting School puts the UNCRC at the heart of a school's culture and ethos

As schools implement the RRSA standards, they **enable** children and young people to make informed decisions and to grow into confident, active and empowered citizens





## What is RRSA?

The award takes a whole school approach to child rights and human rights education.

Child Rights Education is defined as learning *about* rights, learning *through* rights, and learning *for* rights within an overall context of education as a right.

We want all of our children and young people to realise that they are *rights holders* and that these rights are *unconditional*.



## What is RRSA?

The RRS award is based on principles of:  
**equality, dignity, respect,**  
**non-discrimination and**  
**participation.**



# What is RRSA?

## The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



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### A SUMMARY OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



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**ARTICLE 1 (definition of the child)**  
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

**ARTICLE 2 (non-discrimination)**  
The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

**ARTICLE 3 (best interests of the child)**  
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**ARTICLE 4 (implementation of the Convention)**  
Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by

**ARTICLE 13 (freedom of expression)**  
Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

**ARTICLE 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)**  
Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

**ARTICLE 15 (freedom of association)**  
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

**ARTICLE 24 (health and health services)**  
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**ARTICLE 25 (review of treatment in care)**  
If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

**ARTICLE 26 (social security)**  
Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial

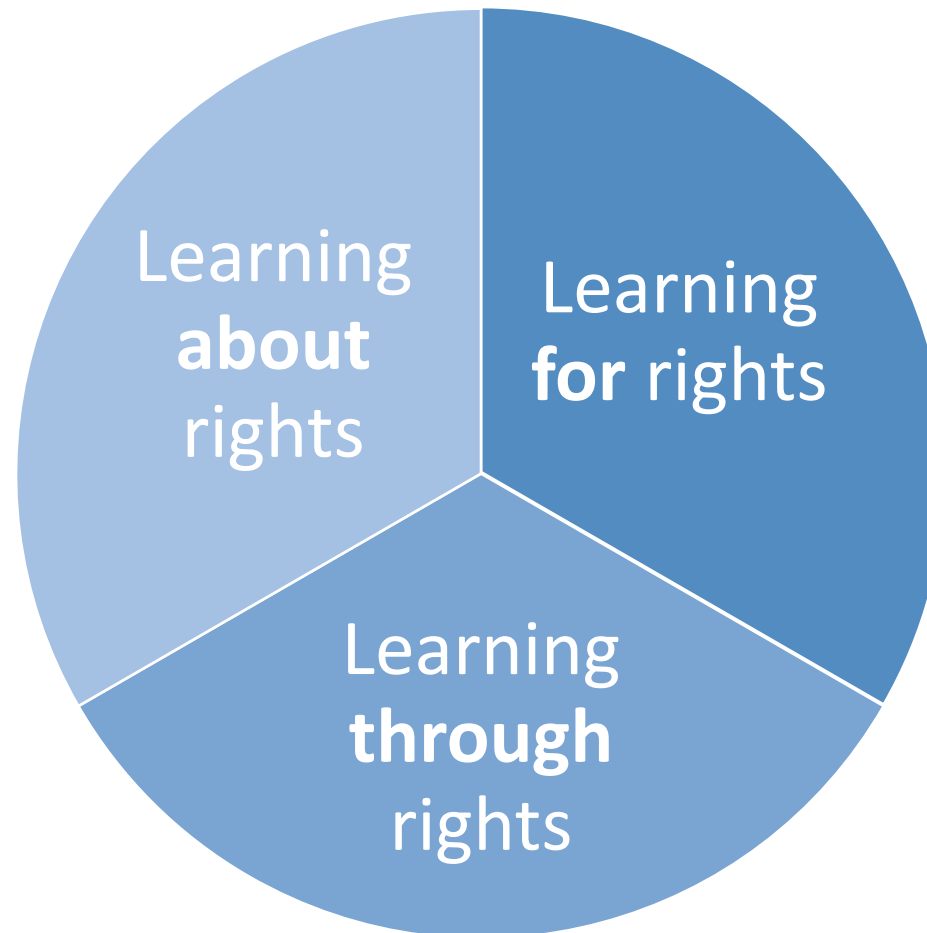
**ARTICLE 36 (other forms of exploitation)**  
Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research.

**ARTICLE 37 (inhumane treatment and detention)**  
Children must not be tortured, sentenced to the death penalty or suffer other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible. They must be treated with respect and care, and be able to keep in contact with their family. Children must not be put in prison with adults.

**ARTICLE 38 (war and armed conflicts)**  
Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect

# What is RRSA?

## The RRSA Framework - 3 Strands



# STRAND A

## Teaching and learning ABOUT rights



- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is made known to children, young people and adults, who use this shared understanding to work for improved child wellbeing, school improvement, global justice and sustainable living.



# STRAND B

## Teaching and learning THROUGH rights



- Actions and decisions affecting children are rooted in, reviewed and resolved through rights. Children, young people and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation; this includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners and promotes wellbeing.

# STRAND B

## Teaching and learning THROUGH rights



- Actions and decisions affecting children are rooted in, reviewed and resolved through rights. Children, young people and adults collaborate to develop and maintain a school community based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation; this includes learning and teaching in a way that respects the rights of both educators and learners and promotes wellbeing.

# STRAND C



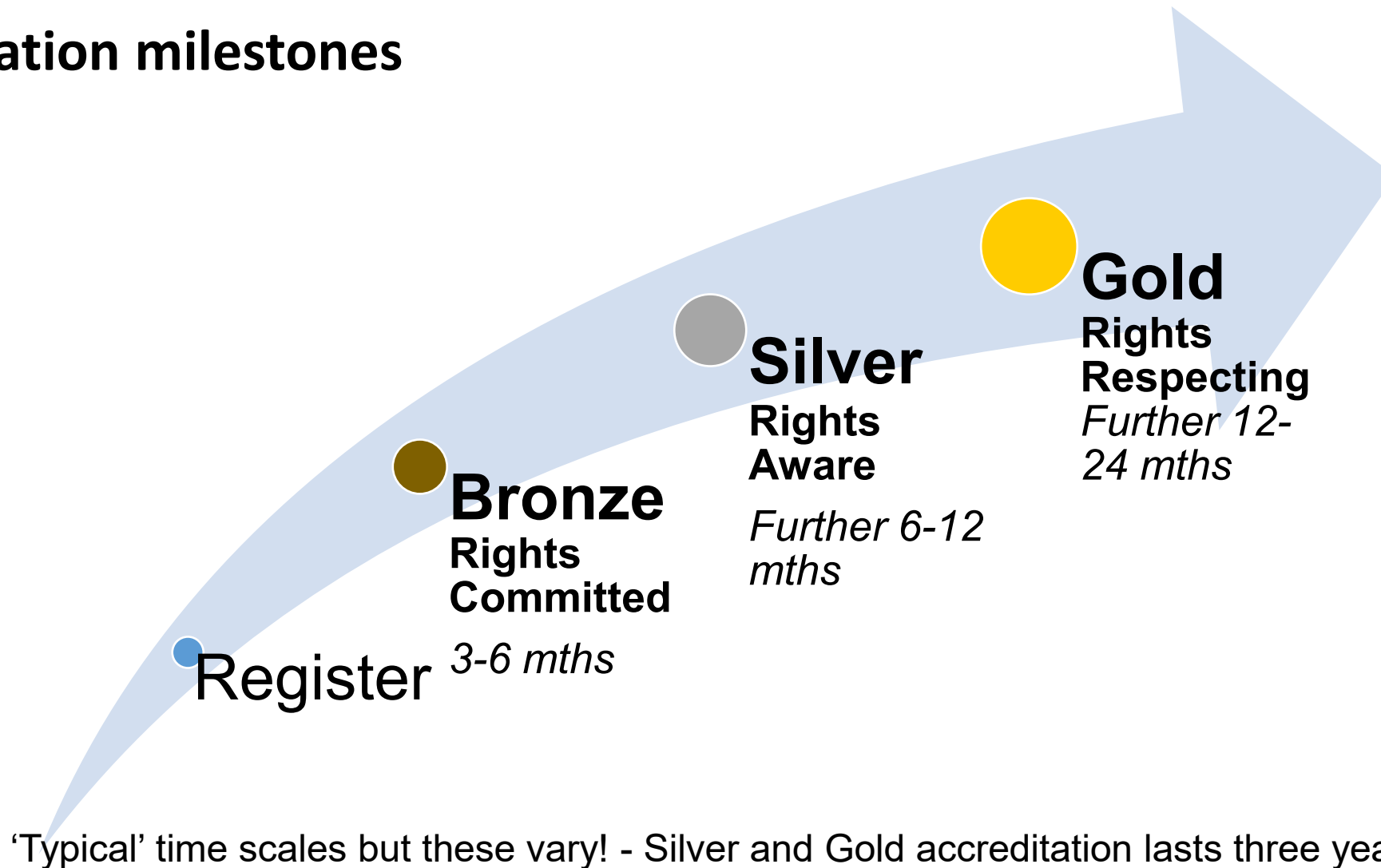
## Teaching and learning FOR rights

- Children are empowered to enjoy and exercise their rights and to promote the rights of others locally and globally. Duty bearers are accountable for ensuring that children experience their rights.



# THE JOURNEY

## Accreditation milestones







# WHY PARTICIPATE?



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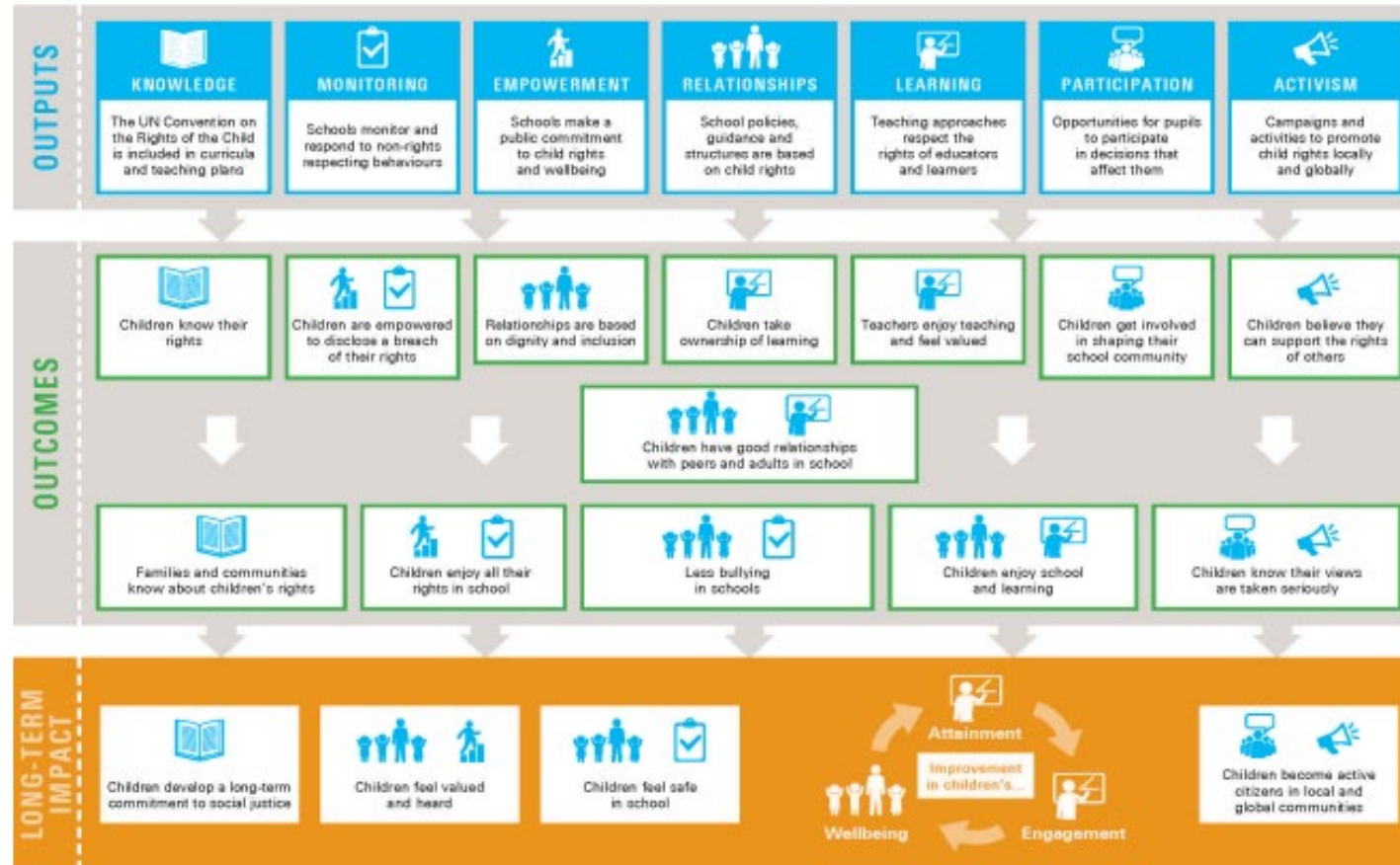
## Why Participate?





## Why Participate?

### THEORY OF CHANGE: RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS



## Why Participate?

- Pupils develop a long-term commitment to values such as social justice and inclusion
- There is a reduction in bullying and discriminatory behaviour among children
- Pupils enjoy and feel safe at school
- Pupils feel included and valued
- Pupils' wellbeing and emotional resilience is improved
- Pupils' engagement in the school and their own learning is improved
- Pupils' attainment is improved, and the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils is narrowed
- Pupils are more engaged in their local and global communities as 'active citizens'

# 2025-2028

## Somerset Pilot Project - 8 Secondary Schools



### The three-year project covers:

- Registration costs
- Any accreditations required
- Access to training
  - E-learning modules
  - 'Live' training suite
  - Support workshops
- Other resources e.g. Conference, networking meetings
- Funded in conjunction with Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership





NEXT STEPS...



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# NEXT STEPS...

Visit our website

[www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa)

Lots of great information and resources, all available without a password.





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ANY QUESTIONS?

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