

London Mayor’s Violence Reduction Unit funding for Rights Respecting Schools in London

Update April 2026

In February 2024, the Mayor of London’s Violence Reduction Unit announced that they would fund membership of [UNICEF UK’s Rights Respecting Schools Award](#) for all state funded schools in London for a period of four years until March 2028. This is part of [London’s Inclusion Charter](#) which aims to support young people in education to feel that they are safe, that they belong, and ultimately that they are in a place where they can thrive.

Two years on from the start of the funding, we look at what has been achieved.

As of 31st March 2026:

- 720 schools are registered with the Rights Respecting Schools Award, an increase of 112% since the start of the funding.
- 264 schools have achieved either the Silver or Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award, meaning they are embedding children’s rights across everything they do.
- 10 Local Authorities marked with ^in the table below have established steering groups to strategically drive a child rights-approach within their schools.
- Over 360,000 pupils attend a school in London registered for the award.
- 126,673 pupils are learning in Silver or Gold Rights Respecting Schools.

The VRU has also commissioned Professor Carol Robinson from the University of Strathclyde to conduct research on the impact of UNICEF’s Rights Respecting Schools approach in supporting children and young people to develop feelings of inclusion, belonging and safety in London schools and this research will be released in July 2026. Professor Carol Robinson has also recently released a piece of independent research titled, [‘The impact of a Rights Respecting School approach on feelings of belonging and inclusion experienced by pupils in school.’](#)

Local Authority	Number of Schools registered with RRSA	Number of schools who have achieved Silver or Gold
Barking and Dagenham^	36	10
Barnet	10	7
Bexley	30	13
Brent	19	11
Bromley	18	3
Camden^	34	7
Croydon	28	10
Ealing^	31	14
Enfield^	19	5
Greenwich	21	6
Hackney	23	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	1
Haringey	16	6

Harrow^	24	10
Havering	15	3
Hillingdon	16	5
Hounslow	13	4
Islington	17	4
Kensington and Chelsea	2	2
Kingston upon Thames^	21	9
Lambeth	33	10
Lewisham	47	18
Merton	28	10
Newham	19	12
Redbridge^	30	18
Richmond upon Thames^	20	5
Southwark	14	2
Sutton	13	7
Tower Hamlets	32	15
Waltham Forest^	35	14
Wandsworth^	38	17
Westminster	12	1

^ refers to Local Authorities that have an active steering group supporting children's rights within their boroughs.

Top 10 boroughs for number of schools engaged:

Local Authority	Number of Schools registered with RRSA
Lewisham	47
Wandsworth	38
Barking and Dagenham	36
Waltham Forest	35
Camden	34
Lambeth	33
Tower Hamlets	32
Ealing	31
Bexley	30
Redbridge	30

Top 6 boroughs for number of schools at Silver or Gold:

Local Authority	Number of schools who have achieved Silver or Gold
Redbridge	18
Lewisham	18
Wandsworth	17
Tower Hamlets	15
Waltham Forest	14
Ealing	14
Bexley	13

*Numbers are correct as of 31st March 2026



Quotes from RRSA Silver Accreditation Reports April 2025- March 2026

"At the heart of our school are the children. We ensure they know their rights and have a safe place to voice their views." Headteacher, Seven Kings School (Primary Phase), RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Redbridge

" He has been learning about rights at nursery and it is helping him make connections about the world, particularly living in a borough with such diversity and difference of experience." Parent, Rebecca Cheetham Nursery School and Children's Centre, RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Newham

" RRSA is a key part of our school improvement plan; there is a whole-school focus on it." A strong ethos of safeguarding, wellbeing and inclusion underpins school culture. The RRSA lead explained, *" Safeguarding and relationships is one of our strongest areas, RRSA really supports that and has strengthened what we already have in place."* Headteacher, Eltham Hill School, RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Greenwich Council.

" This work helps pupils anchor themselves in society; they understand what it means to be a citizen, empowering children to act responsibly and respectfully." Headteacher, Bridishe Lee School, RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Lewisham Council.

" As a new school for children with autism, we needed to be clear about what our vision, curriculum and policies looked like. The UNCRC and RRSA provided us with a framework... everything we do is linked to rights. They have brought the whole school together." Headteacher, Aspris Woodview School, RRSA Silver 2026, Bromley.

" Now we know our rights. We know things can't be taken away from us. We know we can speak to a teacher if we have a worry. We are safe." Pupil, Aspris Woodview School, RRSA Silver 2026, Bromley.

"Rights provides a language and framework for my child to understand things happening globally; it's not always easy to have those conversations but it's been a unifying experience.", Parent, Kilmorrie Primary School, RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Lewisham Council

*"Rights Respecting feeds into the culture that we are trying to create in our school. We have an inclusive culture; they know there are people here to support them."*Headteacher, Downsell Primary School, RRSA Silver 2025, London Borough of Waltham Forest

Quotes from RRSA Gold Accreditation Reports April 2025 - March 2026

"RRSA gives us a solid values base on which we can build everything else. Participation in the Award has had a positive impact on children's learning and wellbeing. Children see themselves as rights respecting global citizens and are advocates for social justice, fairness and children's rights at home and abroad," Headteacher, Wormholt Park Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

"It's such a part of the school. Talking about rights puts a good slant on conversations. There is a constant balancing of rights." Headteacher, Hague Primary School, RRSA Gold 2026, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

" They [Pupils] look out for each other. RRSA is having a big impact on this. It's a very supportive school!" Headteacher, Hague Primary School, RRSA Gold 2026, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

" The language of rights really supports our restorative approach to conflict resolution; we also find it supports those conversations we have with parents." Headteacher, Glade Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, London Borough of Redbridge Council.

" Respecting rights is a strong thread throughout this school; it underpins everything. Children respect each other and the adults within the school!" Governor, Glade Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, London Borough of Redbridge Council.

" Our approach to pupil participation and leadership is that we want everyone to be involved – we have a tracker so we can see who is joining in with what and we can see if there are even more opportunities for students to be involved." Headteacher, Wyvil Primary School, RRSA Gold 2026, Lambeth

" We feel really well supported in the rights journey. We have lots of CPD which makes it easy for us to talk about and embed rights in a meaningful way for our students!" Teacher, Dundonald Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, Merton.

" Children here are empowered. The change in the playground equipment came from children. Pupil voice is listened to here – it inspires a sense of pupil ownership and confidence!" Parent, Dundonald Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, Merton.

"The children are invested in the Dundonald Way. It's the centre of what we do. The Dundonald Way is rights in action – it encapsulates the principles of the UNCRC. It was led by the children, and they wanted to add kind to our values. We had some interesting discussions around what the difference between kind and respectful was when we created that policy." Headteacher, Dundonald Primary School, RRSA Gold 2025, Merton

" Children are respecting each other's rights. Staff respect each other's rights and children are listened to. It is a whole school culture, and it is not forced." Headteacher, Netley Primary School and Centre for Autism, RRSA Gold 2025, Camden.