

Millfields Community School



Democracy in Action



Learning on tour

Millfields Community School is a diverse, inclusive and creative school in the heart of Hackney. Standards are above national trends and the extensive range of curriculum opportunities is relevant to our community, and life in modern Britain. It is based on the core belief expressed in the school's vision and values statement, 'respect for the rights of all'. A respect for the rights of all and a love of and for learning informs the school's curriculum and creates the inclusive and welcoming ethos that is always commented on by visitors to the school.

We believe that the basic skills in English and Maths are central to pupil development but also believe that opportunities beyond these skills, give children wider opportunities that nurture and develop creativity, curiosity, resilience and confidence. We constantly evaluate and review curriculum provision to ensure that children are challenged, motivated and inspired to be life-long learners and become responsible members of our community and society as a whole.

As well as ensuring that pupil participation and pupil voice are central to our curriculum, we are also part of a number of organisations and networks that promote our extended curriculum provision.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School

At the core of all we do is our work with UNICEF UK and our status as a Rights Respecting School. The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation, and we strive to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart

REPORT CARD

- » Headteacher: Jane Betsworth
- » Location: Hackney, London
- » Roll: 669 pupils
- » Staff: 141
- » EAL: 40%
- » FSM: 26%
- » SEN: 22%
- » On site: Children's Centre & Autism Resource Provision
- » Ofsted rating: Good

“Children are able to call members of staff by their first names: ‘Respect is not based on status, but on the value of all.’

Roz Wilson,
PSCHE Lead ”

of our school’s ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential. Millfields’ children and the school community learn, teach, practise, protect and promote children’s rights by putting them into practice every day. The UN Convention is fully embedded and has an impact daily on all areas of learning and development and ensures that all pupils have a rich, diverse and rewarding experience at school.

Millfields is a strong UNICEF ambassador and there is a particular focus on ensuring effective pupil voice, awareness of the Convention and respect for rights. We encourage critical thinking skills, as well as develop pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. Policies and practice make explicit reference to the UNCRC and the school’s rights-based ethos. We have hosted workshops in the local community, and shared good practice with visitors from UNICEF Education Teams from across the world. We demonstrate that a rights respecting ethos encourages communities to work more collaboratively.

Ashoka Changemaker School

Millfields is, one of only 10 Ashoka schools, in the UK. Ashoka Schools enable all students to become change-makers -young people who have the skills and confidence to change

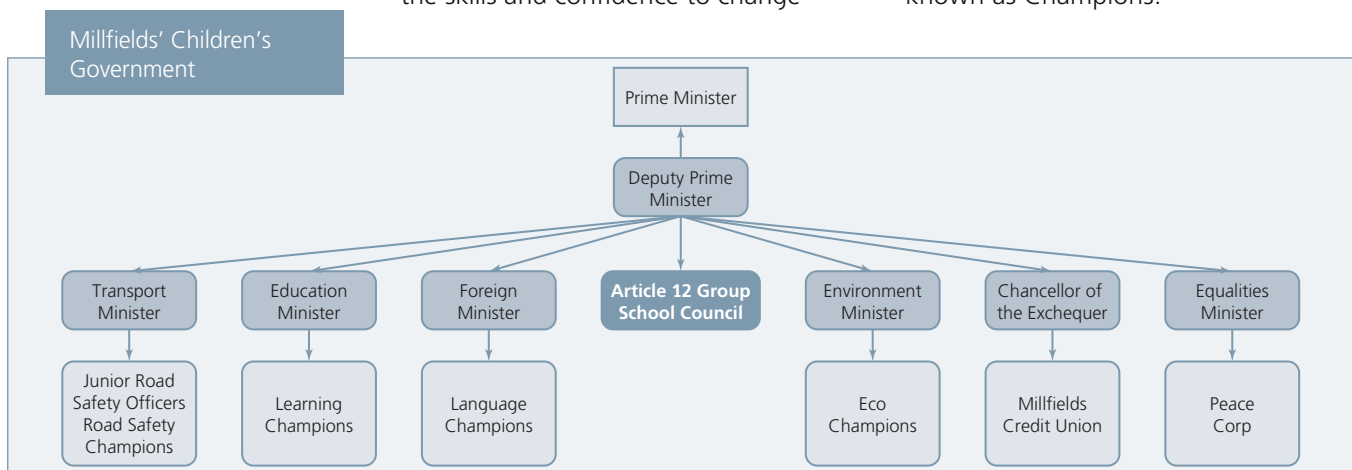
the world for the good of all, and is supported by some of the world’s leading social entrepreneurs. At Millfields, children learn that they have the power to make changes by engaging in projects and speaking up when they are confronted by injustice or inequality. Global Citizenship is embedded across the curriculum. For example, Year 4 study ‘Change’ which includes climate change and rights, and the role of global citizens in effecting change.

Pupil Participation

There is a strong ethos of participation and inclusion at Millfields.

Children have many ways to ensure they are listened to and have their say. The Article 12 Group is the school council with members elected to represent their class for a year, after which they become rights champions. They have weekly meetings with a Lead teacher and feedback on pupils’ suggestions for improvements.

Our most recent addition to the PSHCE curriculum is a school-designed Democracy Week where there is a focus on learning about the origins of democracy and elections. The children are divided into parties which elect leaders and the whole school attends a hustings at a local venue and then votes for a school Prime Minister. The school Prime Minister organises cabinet members who act as leaders for various groups in the school known as Champions.





The Joy of reading



Celebrating diversity as part of British values

Children are always keen to articulate to visitors, the range of ways that they have their voice heard and affect change, as well as how they see themselves as members of the Millfields community.

Within school, children have suggested improvements to lesson starters and school meals, asked for new library books, campaigned for a changing room, and worked with designers and other stakeholders to re-design the playground.

Themed Weeks to enrich the curriculum

Our pupils enjoy a rich and diverse curriculum that strives to be rigorous in the core subjects, as well as encouraging children's creativity and curiosity, by allowing them to explore and create in areas like Art, Humanities, RE, Music, PE and Spanish. Annual theme weeks that celebrate and enrich learning outcomes, include Creative Arts Week, Maths Week, Sports Week, Families Week, as well as Spanish Week and Science and Technology week. We recently held 'iDiscover Week', with a focus on electronic media, which amongst a

whole raft of other initiatives, led to the Gold Primary Science Quality Mark Award.

Pupils take part in 'Work Week' where they are encouraged to develop business and enterprise skills and learn about the world of work across a wide range of sectors. External members of the business community visit the school and judge their ideas.

As part of our termly 'E-safety day', the children learn how to access the Internet safely and the Bill of Rights for Children based on E-safety is promoted within school.

Diversity Week that celebrates and teaches about the diverse community that Millfields serves, enables children to apply their knowledge of rights and respect for all.

Headteacher Jane Betsworth concludes, 'It's all about the learning experiences and opportunities for all children. The inclusive, creative and diverse curriculum offer, and opportunities for everyone to have their voice heard, allows all children to see themselves as equal partners in, and an integral part of, the wider school community.'

“Democracy Week is designed to shape children's understanding about our political system, and promote critical and creative thinking about democratic, values and rights in our community, society and the world”

Joe Walker,
School Governor