PRESS RELEASE

Langrish Primary School in Stroud receives Unicef UK Award

Langrish Primary School in Stroud Nr Petersfield is to be awarded a Level 1 Rights Respecting School Award by Unicef UK.

Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. The Level 1 Award is given to schools that make good progress towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into its ethos and curriculum. There are over 1000 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have received the Level 1 Award, and over 300 schools that have been awarded a Level 2 Award, the next step up and highest accolade granted by Unicef UK.

Headteacher of Langrish Primary School, Mrs Sarah Wright, said: Since January 2016, we have been working towards becoming a Rights Respecting School. Our steering committee which includes pupils, staff, governors and community representatives have been leading this initiative and we are delighted to say we have now achieved our goal.

The Award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Programme Director, Frances Bestley, said: "We are delighted for everyone at Langrish Primary School in achieving the Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award, level 1. This is in recognition of the school's excellent practice in putting the principles and values of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into the school's everyday practice. We wish the school continued success with its RRSA journey in helping pupils learn about their rights and the rights of all children around the world, including the UK. This will also prepare Langrish pupils well in becoming informed and active global citizens of the next generation".

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools initiative is aimed at schools across the UK, including those in an early years setting. We currently work with over 4000 primary schools, secondary schools, schools for children and young people with special educational needs and pupil referral units across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Schools have reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, relationships and well-being by enhancing pupil's self-esteem, leading to less truancy and bullying, better learning and improved academic standards.

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Notes for editors:

*About the Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award

<u>Level 1</u> of the Unicef UK Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that make good progress toward embedding children's rights in its ethos and curriculum. At this level, Unicef UK examines the leadership and management of a school and how it incorporates the values of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the school's culture, policy and practice. It examines teaching and learning in classrooms, whether pupils are encouraged to participate in decision-making processes at the school and how the school helps pupils develop as global citizens. Unicef UK assessors visit the school to accredit progress and where standards have been met a certificate is award. Achieving Level 1 takes between 12 to 18 months.

About Unicef

Unicef is the world's leading organisation for children, promoting the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

Unicef UK raises funds to protect children in danger, transform their lives and build a safer world for tomorrow's children. As a registered charity we raise funds through donations from individuals, organisations and companies and we lobby and campaign to keep children safe. Unicef UK also runs programmes in schools, hospitals and with local authorities in the UK. For more information please visit <u>unicef.org.uk</u>.