



Human Rights Friendly Schools Scheme

Understanding Human Rights Education

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What is Human Rights Education?

"Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Article 26(2), Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
Article 13(1), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
Article 29(1), Convention on the Rights of the Child

What is Human Rights Education?

- ✓ To learn about human rights and protection mechanisms
- ✓ To nurture values, attitudes, behaviour and skills for upholding human rights
- ✓ To take action to defend human rights in daily life
- ✓ To build a universal culture of human rights

Human Rights Friendly Schools Scheme

What is the scheme about?

Amnesty International's global project on Human Rights Friendly Schools
The Guide is based on international human rights standards

Aims

- ✓ To empower young people to understand their rights
- ✓ To promote the active participation of all members of the school community in integrating human rights values and principles into all areas of school life
- ✓ To develop a community and global culture of human rights

Basic Principles of Human Rights

- ✓ Equality and non-discrimination
- ✓ Universality and inalienability
- ✓ Indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness

Reference: The United Nations. Plan of Action for the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2012)

Principles

- ✓ Non-discrimination and inclusion
- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Empowerment through learning and teaching

Becoming a Human Rights Friendly School: A Guide for Schools Around the World

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol32/001/2012/en/>



10 Global Principles for Human Rights Friendly Schools

Non-discrimination and inclusion

(1) A Human Rights Friendly School is a community where equality, non-discrimination, dignity and respect underpin all aspects of school life.

(2) A Human Rights Friendly School provides a learning environment in which all human rights are respected, protected and promoted.

(3) A Human Rights Friendly School embraces inclusion in all aspects of school life.

Participation

(4) A Human Rights Friendly School encourages all members of the school community to participate freely, actively and meaningfully in school life, including shaping school policies and practices.

(5) A Human Rights Friendly School ensures that everyone in the school community has the information and resources they need to participate fully in school life.

Accountability

(6) A Human Rights Friendly School is fair, accountable and transparent in all of its planning, processes, policies and practices.

(7) A Human Rights Friendly School protects all members of the schools community by making safety and security a shared responsibility.

Empowerment through learning and teaching

(8) A Human Rights Friendly School integrates human rights into all aspects of teaching and the curriculum.

(9) A Human Rights Friendly School works to empower all students to reach their full potential through education, in particular those students who are marginalized due to their gender, status or difference.

(10) A Human Rights Friendly School empowers students and staff to become active members of a global community, sharing knowledge, understanding and learning with others and taking action to create a world where human rights are respected, protected and promoted.

Human Rights Friendly School should not infringe students' human rights



School should not ask students to kneel down to measure the length of skirts.



No school corporal punishment.



School should respect students' freedom of expression including wearing a badge to express views.

1



The representatives of the Student Council are universally elected by all students.

2



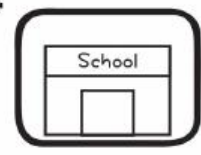
The Student Council is set up.

3



The Student Council holds meeting regularly and collects the students' views.

4



The Student Council tables its suggestions to school and practises democratic participation.

Examples of demands by a universally elected primary school student council

There was a school rule that students could only wear non-uniform jackets at 12°C. The Student Council demanded to raise the required temperature to 14 °C as the school was located in the countryside which had a lower temperature than the city.



School accepted students' argument.

The Student Council asked for dishes with a better taste and adding 2 potato chips to the lunch boxes.



Healthy school lunch was required and had to meet the standards in the Nutritional Guidelines on Lunch for Students issued by the Department of Health.

Ming Pao, "A universally-elected primary student council succeeded in changing the school rules on uniform" .10 September 2014.



No bullying at school!