

HUMAN RIGHTS FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

We encourage schools to work towards developing a whole-school approach – integrating human rights values into every aspect of school life. It is not just that human rights are taught but that teachers show respect and ensure equality, disputes are resolved fairly, and all voices are heard. In these ‘human rights friendly’ schools, teachers find new ways to build human rights principles into all their work.

A whole-school approach can be phased into your school through small activities or larger initiatives. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Develop an elected Junior Leadership team to be consulted on decisions that affect the student body.
- Explore ways in which human rights can be integrated across the curriculum.
- Look at the school mission statement to make sure it promotes and represents the school in a human rights friendly way.
- Run a human rights awareness day.
- Conduct an audit of existing school policies to identify where they impact on human rights.
- Use whole-school assemblies to vote democratically on important school decisions.
- Choose a topic that is affecting the student population at the moment – eg cyber bullying – and see how it can be explored, challenged and overcome by looking at it through a human rights lens.
- Set up an Amnesty group: [amnesty.org.uk/youth](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/youth)
- Browse our collection of human rights resources: [amnesty.org.uk/education](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)
- Sign up to TeachRights newsletters with updates on our new free resources, training opportunities, human rights education news and learning events, along with information on our latest campaigns – and how your students can get involved: [amnesty.org.uk/teachrights](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/teachrights)
- Use our online educational portal, Amnesty Human Rights Academy. It offers a curated Teacher’s Guide aimed at educators of students aged 10 and up. You can use this guide to supplement lesson plans with online courses about human rights, each lasting from 20 minutes to a few hours. academy.amnesty.org/learn/signup
- Have students take the Human Rights Friendly Schools online course (age 13+) on embedding human rights into everyday school life: academy.amnesty.org/learn