SCRIPT 6: Rights Respecting

CUE: Pentrehafod School has become the first Rights Respecting Secondary School in Wales. The prestigious award, set up by UNICEF, makes sure all children know their rights, which include: the right to an identity, the right to good-quality education, the right to feel safe and the right to know their rights. This is not an easy award to obtain, and has involved making a rights-respecting app which has been viewed in 100 countries worldwide. P1 and P2 report on being rights respecting.

PRESENTER 1: Our school, to become the first Welsh Rights Respecting Secondary School this year, has had to incorporate the forty-one articles that make up the rights-respecting convention that was set up twenty-five years ago by UNICEF into every-day school life.

PRESENTER 2: This has seen ‘Rights of the Month’ on posters across the school, as well as restorative-practice being introduced which incorporates the right to be safe into school life.

PRESENTER 1: Assemblies in school focus on the rights, and allow young people to learn that no matter their gender, race, religion or ethnicity that they apply to everyone. That, no matter where you are from, you still have the right to a voice, and to be the best that you can be.

PRESENTER 2: A school charter is also on display wherever you turn, which reminds both pupils and teachers of the rights and what they should be doing to make sure they are being achieved. There are also rights-respecting ambassadors, whose job around the school is to make sure everyone knows these rights.

PRESNTER 1: All pupils in school are set on knowing the rights, and each pupil knows what some – if not all – of their rights are. After talks in school from the likes of Jean Robert-Cadet, who grew up as a child slave in Haiti, with ‘owners’ who would never show him any sign of affection, everyone appreciates the rights that they have to a good education, and good care.

PRESENTER 2: When listening to a man talk about how he still has nightmares about the things he experienced during his childhood, you suddenly don’t feel as bad about the huge pile of homework you have waiting for you, as you realise all he wanted was to go to school.

PRESENTER 1: Pentrehafod didn’t just want to quietly achieve this award, though. Instead, to achieve the Level 1 Rights Respecting School award, they created a bilingual app, one that has been seen in one hundred countries across the world, in many different languages.

PRESENTER 2: The app which was designed by pupils with the help from a team at Swansea University, displays all of the rights in a way of promoting them.

PRESENTER 2: We got to speak to … one of the schools Rights Respecting Ambassadors, about how they achieved the award, and how important it is.