

Leasowes Reading NEWSLETTER



Spring 2026

A Note from Mrs Widdett, English Leader

Welcome to the latest issue of the Leasowes Reading Newsletter! Once a term, we are thrilled to bring you recommendations on the latest and greatest texts out there to drive Reading For Pleasure. Did you know that this year is the National Year of Reading? We encourage you to join us as we 'go all in' in an effort to further drive our reading for pleasure initiatives.

The latest research shows that there is a generational decline for reading and that only one in three children age 8–18 say they actually enjoy it. Sadly, we also know that the research says that early reading ability is closely matched to success later in life and that poor reading skills can adversely affect children long after they leave structured education. That's why at Leasowes, our mantra is First, learn to read and Later, read to learn! We are very proud, too, of our Reading for Pleasure culture including regular investment in brand-new books; well-stocked, staffed and exciting library provision; and a programme of enrichment driven by our UKS2 reading ambassadors.

At Leasowes, we are also enormously proud of our status as a Gold Unicef Rights Respecting School. Our children know their rights and are active in ensuring children locally, nationally and globally can access them too. This issue of the Reading Newsletter showcases texts that teach children about their rights, either implicitly or explicitly, and are great for generating discussion both at home and at school. Also in this edition, I have recommended some books to help you navigate conversations around some protected characteristics. With the language of Rights, historically 'tricky' conversations become far more natural. We have also linked our latest Spring Reading Challenge to this – details are below.

Spring 2026 Reading Challenge

Deadline: 24th April 2026

Rights are everywhere! Any book can be linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As children read books throughout the next few weeks, reflect on the rights of the child (Search 'CRC icons and text' for a simple version children are familiar with) and consider which ones may be apparent in the texts you read. There are lots of ideas in the following pages for different age groups, too. We are bringing back an old favourite this time for our Reading Reward... the Book Cafe!

Reading and Rights

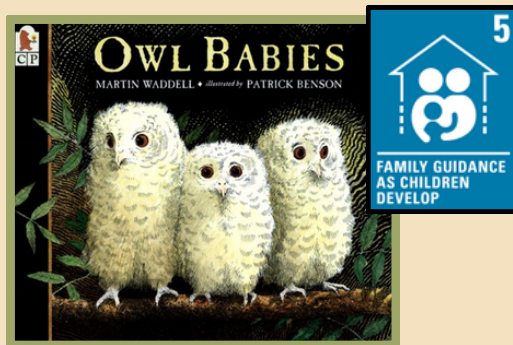
EYFS



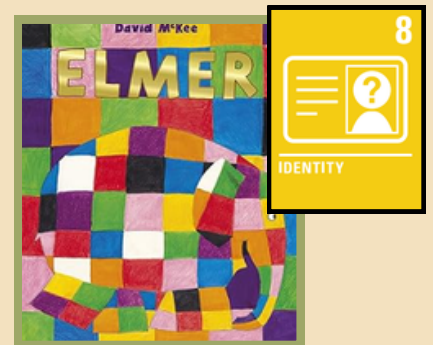
Teaching children about their rights starts in the Early Years. You would be astounded at how eloquently some of our youngest children are able to talk about what we have a right to at school and at home. Some of these titles work brilliantly against some of the articles from the CRC.



Article 24 – The right to good health (including mental health). Helps young children recognise and talk about feelings.



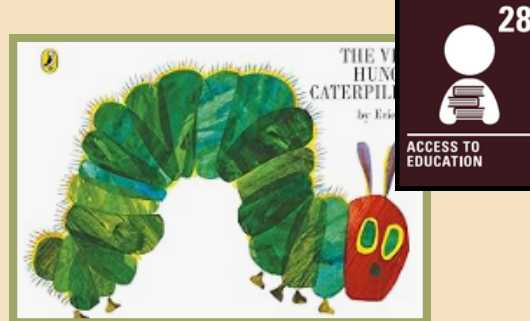
Article 5 – The right to guidance from family. A gentle story about reassurance, safety and family bonds



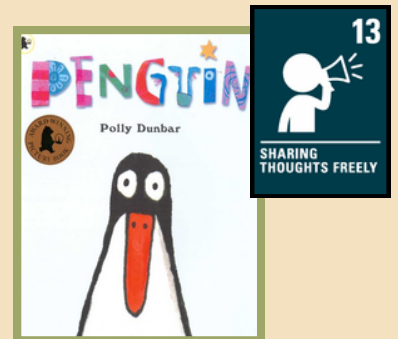
Article 8 – The right to an identity. Celebrates individuality and being proud of who you are.



Article 30 – The right to enjoy your own culture. Introduces cultural diversity in a joyful, accessible way.

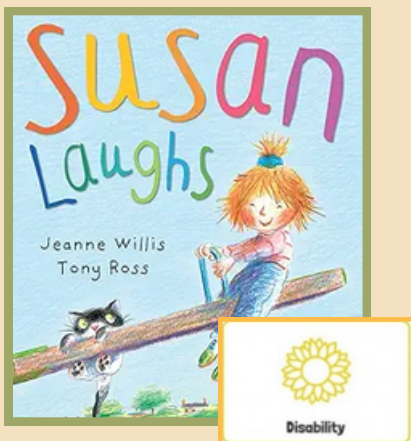


Article 28 – The right to education. Perfect for exploring learning, growth and curiosity.



Article 13 – Freedom of expression. Includes non-verbal communication and emotions.

Books to explore protected characteristics



Reading and Rights

KS1



Children in Key Stage 1 continue their rights-focused education by contextualising the CRC articles through their curriculum work. Listening to KS1 children discuss articles such as the right to an education, the right to share their views freely is just wonderful!



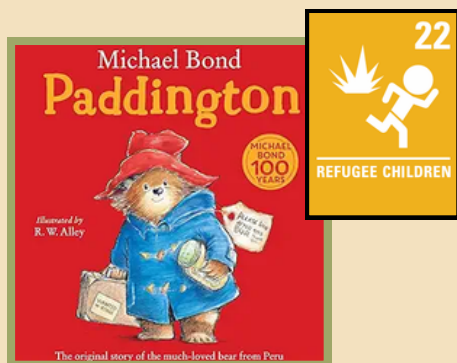
Article 2 – The right to no discrimination
This book challenges gender stereotypes.



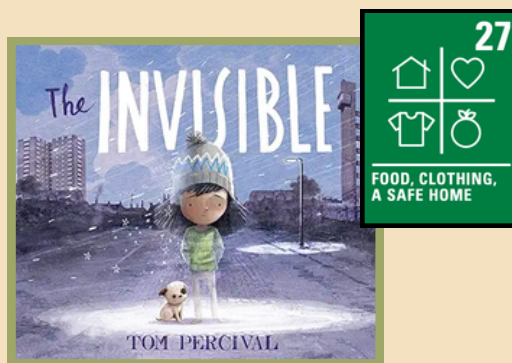
Article 31 – Right to leisure and play
Aspiration regardless of background



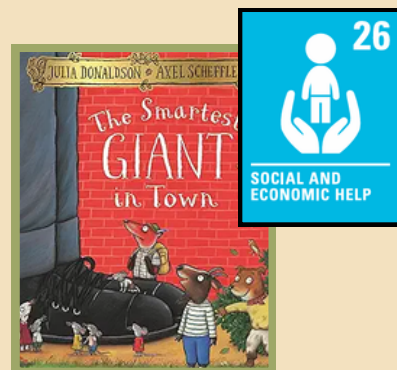
Article 15 – Right to friendship
Sharing and belonging



Article 22 – Refugee children have rights
Explore the concept of refuge

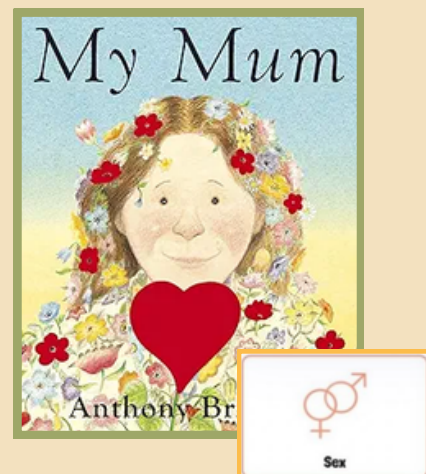
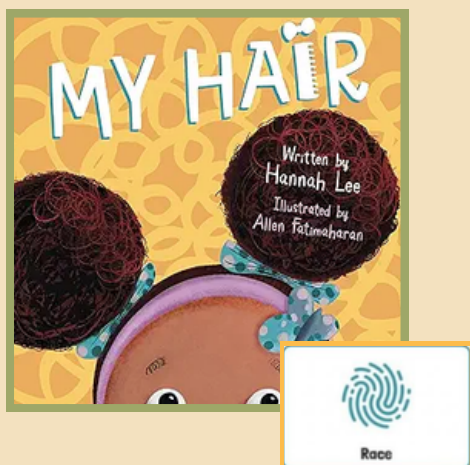


Article 27 – Right to a standard of living
Poverty, kindness and community



Article 26 – Right to social support
Generosity, empathy, helping others

Books to explore protected characteristics

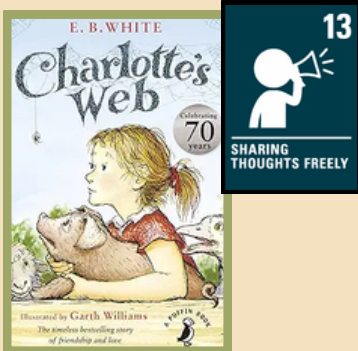


Reading and Rights

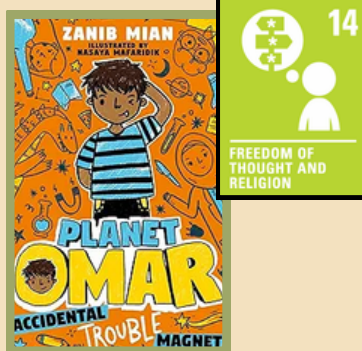
LKS2



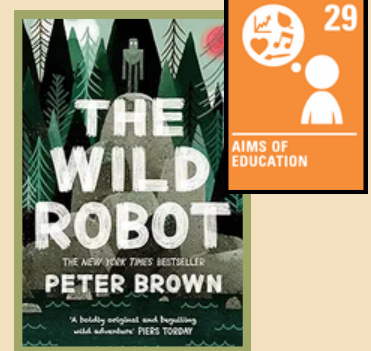
As children enter Key Stage 2, their knowledge of the CRC's rights widen even further. Historically challenging conversations and areas of the curriculum are further supported and strengthened with now-embedded language of rights.



Article 13 – Expression and friendship
Empathy and care for living things



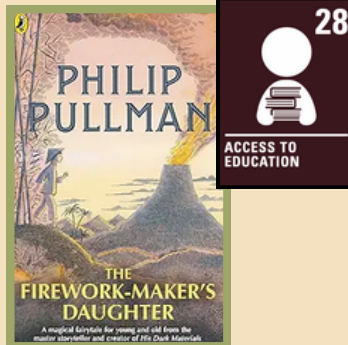
Article 14 – Freedom of religion
Muslim representation and inclusion



Article 29 – Education aims to respect
the natural world. Environment and
belonging.



Article 22 – Refugee children have rights
Compassion leads to action

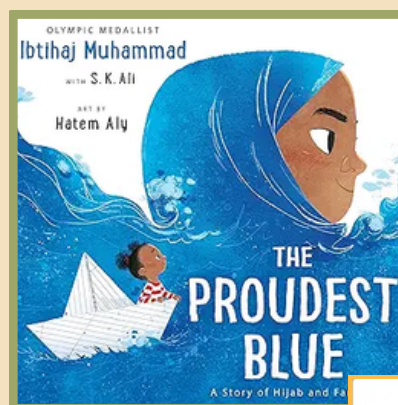
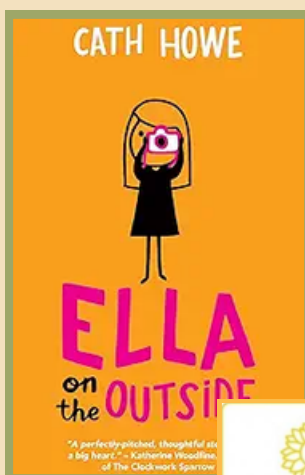


Article 28 – Right to an education
Gender equality and perseverance



Article 15 – Right to association
Identify, bravery, community

Books to explore protected characteristics



Reading and Rights

UKS2



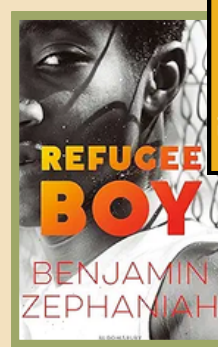
Our oldest children are now experts in knowing their rights. We fully understand how lucky we are to access them but also know that some children around the world do not have their rights fully met. The language of rights help us to grapple with complex and at times abstract situations but explore them with care.



Article 23 – Rights of children with disabilities. Neurodivergence and advocacy.



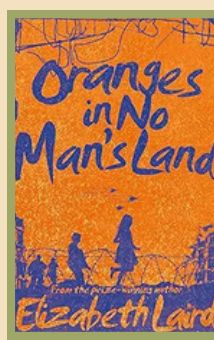
Article 2 – No discrimination
Kindness and acceptance



Article 22 – Refugee children have rights
Identity and resilience



Article 29 – Education aims to respect the natural world. Empathy and climate awareness.



Article 6 – Right to life and development
War, care and bravery



Article 38 – Protection in war
Courage and human connection

Books to explore protected characteristics

