

## Delivery of Youth Social Action through Citizenship

The overview below provides gives a brief description of how mental health and well-being can be delivered through citizenship, in particular human rights and the rights of young people.

### Key Stage 3

Teaching should develop young peoples' understanding of democracy, government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Young people should use and apply their knowledge and understanding whilst developing skills to research and interrogate evidence, debate and evaluate viewpoints, present reasoned arguments and take informed action.

### Key Stage 4

Teaching should build on the key stage 3 programme of study to deepen young people's understanding of democracy, government and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Young people should develop their skills to be able to use a range of research strategies, weigh up evidence, make persuasive arguments and substantiate their conclusions. They should experience and evaluate different ways that citizens can act together to solve problems and contribute to society.

### Link to Youth Social Action

*'Human rights education is much more than a lesson in schools or a theme for a day; it is a process to equip people with the tools they need to live lives of security and dignity.'* **Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations 1997-2001**

The UK has signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (UNCRC), which is an international treaty that protects the rights of children. However, the treaty is not legally binding, so children cannot take the UK Government to court if they do not protect these rights. Our Human Rights Act, on the other hand, is a UK law – so people can take the Government to court if they break it.

All children have the right to health, in line with international human rights law. Specifically, the right of the child to health is enshrined in Article 24 of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which states that children have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health and access to healthcare services. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/children/children-and-health>

- What is the Human Rights Act?
- What rights are contained in the Human Rights Act?
- How does the Human Rights Act work?
- How has the Human Rights Act protected rights in the UK?
- What is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- What rights are in the UNCRC?
- Why is it important?
- How can the Convention make children's lives better in England?