

From Michael Newman, some relevant quotes:

Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 and explanatory memorandum

"8. Democratic governance

Member states should promote democratic governance in all educational institutions both as a desirable and beneficial method of governance in its own right and as a practical means of learning and experiencing democracy and respect for human rights"

All-European Study on Pupils' Participation in School, Council of Europe Document DGIV/EDU/CIT (2003):

"One of the earliest examples came from Summerhill, a British school which opened as early as 1921. Its pupils were the first to be allowed to have their say, not only about the way in which their schooling was organised, but also about the life of the school. At the time, Summerhill was criticised for its lax approach, although the school had more than 200 rules, far more than most conventional schools. The difference was that these rules had been drawn up by mutual consent between the children and the teaching staff.

This innovative approach has subsequently become an international standard thanks to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by all UN members except Somalia and the United States. Article 12 of the Convention states that children have a right to participate in the taking of decisions on all matters affecting them."