

Introduction

We are delighted that your child has become a member of the Wakefield Children's University. We have provided the following information to help you and your child get the most from their involvement. It is important to remember that participation in Learning Activities must be voluntary, take place outside the normal school day and at a validated Learning Destination.

We have compiled our most frequently asked questions to help you, but if in doubt please contact your school in the first instance, or one of our team. Our contact details are on the back page.

What is the Children's University?

The Children's University is a charitable trust who aims to develop a love of learning in children. We do this by encouraging and celebrating the participation of 5-14 year olds in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school.

Children are given a Passport to Learning in which they collect stamp codes for each activity they participate in at Learning Destinations.

Learning Destinations are the activity providers we work with and can include after school clubs, museums and galleries, sports clubs, community

groups, plus many more.

Stamp codes are uploaded to our new digital platform where you can unlock additional information about the activities taken part in.

Children receive a certificate of award upon reaching certain thresholds:

- Bronze Award = 30 hours
- Silver Award = 65 hours
- Gold Award = 100 hours

The certificates follow these increments up to 1000 hours, meaning there are 30 certificates to collect in total. A full breakdown of the thresholds and certificates can be found in the front of the Passport to Learning.

Those who reach one of the various Gold levels throughout the year will be invited the annual Graduation ceremony in June. The ceremony celebrates these achievements and children wear a traditional cap and gown while being presented with a certificate in front of their family and friends.

What is CU Online?

Children's University Online is a fun, safe and secure online space to record what your child is doing as part of the Children's University. You can use this alongside the Passport - simply collect stamp codes in the Passport and enter them online to add Learning Hours. The codes are unique to each activity

and will show you the interests and skills your child is developing by taking part.

Each child will have their own dashboard which will help them see how they're progressing towards the next award level. There are also online-only exclusive badges that can be collected between graduations.

How do I get a stamp code?

Your child's school will issue a stamp code for any after school clubs your child attends. They may do this on a half termly basis. For visits to Learning Destinations, the activity provider will issue this and write it in the Passport.

How often do you check the Passport to Learning?

Wakefield CU will request your online account to be fully updated approximately 4 times a year in order for us to confirm your child's Learning Hours total. Certificates will be issued once Learning Hours have been updated. If your child is an Individual Member, you will be contacted by post/email when the update is due.

How do I recommend an activity?

We are always on the lookout for new Learning Destinations. They can sign up directly by visiting the CU website. We will then be in touch to complete the validation.

Who decides how much time to include for each activity?

During the validation process, we discuss how many Learning Hours to allocate to each activity. Our key principle is that the hours included relate to learning within an activity and will not necessarily include the whole session. For example, a youth club meeting lasting 2 hours may only be eligible for 1 hour recorded in the Passport, as some of the session may be given over to socialising. While this is an important part of the session, it is not a formal learning experience.

How do I support my child to include a range of activities?

We want to encourage children to try new activities and experiences. Within each award level we would like to see a mix of activities with no more than 15 hours per term, or 45 hours per year of one single activity counting towards a CU award.

Learning Hours awarded at Scouting/ Guiding groups can be included for badgework and visits only.

Any camps can be included up to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

Residentials/sleepovers can be included provided learning is taking place and up to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

Please do not include time spent sleeping, travelling or lunch breaks as

these do not form part of the formal learning we validate. The above follows the guidelines set by the CU Trust.

What other activities are there?

There are many Learning Destinations across Wakefield which do not require membership to attend, in addition to the regular clubs and after school clubs your child may attend. These range from museums and libraries, to pottery painting and forest schools and everything in between! You can find a full list on our website.

In addition, Wakefield CU produces a challenge sheet for every school holiday. The challenges are free/low cost and can be done at home. These are sent to schools and are also posted on our social media. We require evidence of completion and all details are on the challenge sheets.

Wakefield College also runs regular events for our CU members. Keep an eye on your school's newsletter and our social media for any upcoming events.

Can we use the Passport to Learning outside of Wakefield?

Yes! The Children's University has validated Learning Destinations across the country. You can check before you travel on the CU Trust website.

In addition, there are a number of

national Learning Destinations, some of which provide online activities. All of these can be found on the CU Trust website.

The Children's University aims to:

- Increase the number of 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children aged 5 and above
- Break down barriers to 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children facing disadvantage
- Provide participants with increased levels of curiosity, confidence and resilience to help them realise their aspirations
- Recognise and celebrate continuing participation, creating a sense of achievement and success
- Build partnerships that enables us to provide more opportunities to more children

Contact Us

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