

Children's University – Frequently asked questions

If you are a child in years' 1 to 6 and you would like to find out more about the exciting learning opportunities with the Children's University, then you have come to the right place!

It is impossible to think of all the questions you might have, so here are a few facts which we think will help you understand more about what's involved.

The Children's University believes that children can and do learn anywhere, when doing all sorts of activities, and that children learn best when **they** decide what they want to learn, when and where, and most importantly, have **FUN** whilst learning.

The Children's University provides you with the opportunity to take part in exciting and creative learning activities outside of the normal school day and these activities can be before school, during play and lunchtimes, after school, at weekends and during the school holidays.

Celebrating your achievements is very important to us. Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom. Children learn new things in all sorts of places: at museums, on nature walks, by playing sports and music, and much more besides.

1. What is the Children's University?

The Children's University (CU) Trust is a charitable trust that provides 7 to 14 year olds (and 5 to 6 year olds with their families) with exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside normal school hours. We celebrate achievement and reward participation through our certificates.

2. What is a *Passport to Learning* and why do I need one?



Every child taking part in the Children's University is issued with their own *Passport to Learning*. It is for you to be able to record all of the *Learning Activities* at *Learning Destinations* that you take part in. The entries will be evidence of the hours of learning you do and will lead to the presentation of CU Certificates at a CU Graduation Ceremony.

How do I collect hours in my *Passport to Learning*?

You must take your *Passport to Learning* with you to each CU *Learning Activity* you attend. The activity leader will fill in your *Passport to Learning* to show you have taken part.

DATE	HOUR(S)	ACTIVITY	STAMP OF APPROVAL
3/3/14	2	CU Live Lecture	
4/3/14	1	After School Cookery	

3. Who stamps the passport to learning?

The school coordinator will oversee this for all school-led *Learning Activities*. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for handing their *Passport to Learning* in when asked. Activities need not be added separately each week – most schools update the *Passport to Learning* half termly or termly.

For activities at *Public Learning Destinations* children should normally have their *Passport to Learning* stamped by the learning provider. If this is not possible, the school coordinator can add the hours if provided with proof of participation.

4. What are learning activities?

Learning Activities usually take place outside the normal school day, this includes before school, lunchtime and after school clubs, as well as weekend and holiday activities. There are activities that can be included during school hours. Only activities at *Learning Destinations* which have been quality assured, (validated) by us can be included.

Schools will ensure children know which clubs are included. *Public Learning Destinations* can be found on the Children's University website, once uploaded.

5. How do I recommend an activity?

We welcome suggestions for new *Public Learning Destinations*. Most Children's Universities have a simple form for parents and children to make recommendations.

The validation of *Public Learning Destinations* is managed through the local Children's University Manager, and depending on their capacity this may take a little time. If you are interested in training as a volunteer validator, please contact your local Children's University Manager.

6. What about regular clubs and activities outside of school?

Regular participation in validated uniformed organisations, sports clubs and teams, music practice and performance can all be included in the *Passport to Learning*.

To maintain the breadth of learning, individual clubs or groups should account for no more than *30 hours in any one school year, or ten hours per school term*.

7. How many hours do I need to graduate?

If you look inside your *Passport to Learning* you will see that you can work through lots of CU Award levels. Starting with your Bronze Award for 30 hours of CU *Learning Activities* up to a Gold Fellowship Award for 1,000 hours.

Your 30 hours Bronze Award can be awarded for one or more activities but after that you should have at least 5 hours of learning something new for the Silver level and then 10 hours of something new for your Gold and all other Awards over 100 hours.

8. What is the back of my *Passport to Learning* for?

This part of your *Passport to Learning* is for you to record your 'Moments to be Proud Of' – this is where you can show-and-tell what you have enjoyed most on your Children's University learning journey.

9. How long will my passport to learning last?

Generally we find that a *Passport to Learning* will last for 18 months. When your *Passport to Learning* is full, speak to your school who will be able to arrange for a new one to be issued to you.

What happens if I lose my *Passport to Learning*?

If you lose your *Passport to Learning* please let your school know. A cost will incur to replace the passport.

10. Which activities are included locally?

Your school will be providing some. Others are available at places like Normanby Hall, Scunthorpe Museum, North Lindsey College and many small clubs around the area.

11. Any further questions?

Caroline is your Children's University Coordinator based at the University Centre, North Lindsey College in Scunthorpe. Do not hesitate to contact her to answer any other questions on the *Passport to learning* which you may have.

Please email childrensuniversity@northlindsey.ac.uk with any further questions you may have.

You can check out our website at <http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/home/learning-destinations/north-lincolnshire-childrens-university/>

Also our Facebook and Twitter pages – just search for Children's University North Lincolnshire!