

How does the passport work with Home Educated children?

Home Educated children can use their *Passport to Learning* in the same way, with the obvious exception of school-based *Learning Activities*.

In keeping with the Children's University principles of encouraging **collaborative** learning beyond the "classroom", parent led, home based activities for individual children cannot be validated.

What about activities with faith organisations?

Children's University *Learning Activities* must be open to all, we do not include in the *Passport to Learning* instructional classes based on adherence to a single faith.

Where activities are voluntary, open to those of all faiths and none, and encourage children to explore faith and beliefs more broadly, they may be considered for validation.

How does Children's University work with Supplementary Schools?

Activities offered through Supplementary Schools, provided they are open to children of all cultures, can also be considered for inclusion in the *Passport to Learning*.



Where can I find further information?

Your local Children's University Manager is the best person to answer any other questions you may have.

WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

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If your Children's University Manager is not able to help you, please contact CU Trust at:

contactus@childrensuniversity.co.uk



www.twitter.com/WorcestershireCU



Passport to Learning: Guide for Parents & Carers



“Children can only aspire to what they know exists....”

What is Children's University?

Children's University is an extra-curricular programme taking learning outside the classroom to provide children aged 5 – 14 years, irrespective of ability, gender or background, exciting and innovative learning activities. Benefits include:

- Significantly raises aspirations of children
- Improves attendance, achievement and the love of learning
- Builds commitment, character and confidence

All children receive a Passport to Learning which they are encouraged to collect hours of learning leading towards nationally recognised awards. Examples include; libraries, museums, country parks, Scout & Girl Guide clubs, community centres and many, many more. Annual CU Graduation Ceremonies are held at local universities where children receive their awards.

Who stamps the *Passport to Learning*?

The co-ordinator will oversee this for all school *Learning Activities*. Activities need not be added separately – most schools update the *Passport to Learning* half termly or termly.

Activities at *Public Learning Destinations* should have their *Passport to Learning* stamped by the learning destination. If this is not possible, the co-ordinator can add the hours if provided with proof of participation i.e. receipt, photograph or activity worksheet.

What *Learning Activities* count?

Learning Activities that take place outside the normal school day, including before school, lunchtime and after school clubs, as well as weekend and holiday activities.

Only activities at *Learning Destinations* which have been validated by us can be included. *Public Learning Destinations* can be found by visiting our website www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

How do I recommend an activity?

We welcome suggestions for new *Public Learning Destinations*. Most Children's Universities have a simple form to make recommendations, please see your co-ordinator for this form or email your local CU manager with the details.

The validation of these are managed through the local Children's University Manager.

Who decides how much time to include for each activity?

A recommended range or set number of hours is attached to each validated *Learning Activity*.

Hours included relate to learning within an activity, and may not necessarily include the whole session. For example a Youth Club meeting lasting 2 hours may only be eligible for 1 hour to be recorded as some of the session will be given over to socialising, an equally important part of the evening.



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

Encouraging children to try **new activities** and **unfamiliar experiences**, while promoting independence is a key principle. Within any award there should be a mix of activities, ideally no more than a third of any award spent on a single activity.

For example: A 30 hour CU Award could be:

- 10 hours of Swimming Club (practice, competitions, coaching)
- 4 hours of Brownies (Badge work the main focus)
- 10 hours of school clubs (e.g. Chess, Cookery)
- 6 hours of music (tuition, practice, performance)

As well as signposting new activities, we also want to encourage children to become **resilient** and **persevere** with activities they are good at. Regular participation in validated uniformed organisations, sports clubs and teams, music practice and performance can 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*.

How can my child take part if their school is not a member of Children's University?

Some Children's Universities have the capacity to offer individual Child Membership to children who are not able to join through their local school.

This "open" membership enables children to use their *Passport to Learning* at *Public Learning Destinations* or any locally organised Children's University *Learning Activities*.