



Children's University

Guide for Schools



What is Children's University

Children's University works with schools and local providers to develop a love of learning in primary school aged children.

They do this by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why they are committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity and opening up access to children of all backgrounds.



“Children taking part in Children's University made two additional months progress in reading and maths compared to children in the other schools.”

Children's University in Harrow

Thanks to funding from **John Lyon's Charity**, and a partnership between **Young Harrow Foundation, Harrow School** and **John Lyon School** - Children's University has landed in Harrow. It is part of the broader vision of this partnership to bridge the gap between schools and local services.



The offer is open to three primary schools in this first year.



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY



Harrow School and John Lyon School already offer a number of enrichment and support to primary schools in Harrow. This programme will enable them to extend that offer and and develop their offers alongside partner schools say they need.



Young Harrow Foundation has 250+ local delivery organisations in its network and this programme will formalise links between schools and local voluntary sector organisations.



The model for Harrow will be focused on empowering schools to take ownership of the programme through training and upskilling their staff and parent ambassadors.



The Need for Children's University

Research shows that participation in extra-curricular activities can positively impact on attainment, increase a pupil's positive identification with school, and build self-confidence and resilience. Research also shows that children that do not have access to these opportunities fall behind, lack confidence, and fail to develop career aspirations. The resulting attainment gap is so significant that 25% of children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds achieve below expected attainment levels

Key outcomes for every child

For every child that takes part in Children's University, we want the following outcomes:

-  They feel they have grown in confidence and self-belief
-  They have enjoyed new experiences, in new places and want to keep exploring
-  They believe they have a broader range of essential skills
-  They feel empowered to make positive choices about their future
-  They see learning that is fun, aspirational and lifelong
-  They feel their eyes have been opened to a multiplicity of learning activities and opportunities
-  They feel celebrated for their commitment to learning by their family, school and community.

How will it work in Harrow

Your school decides which children take part in the Children's University - many decide to offer it to a particular year group. Once those children are registered they can start taking part in activities provided by validated Learning Destination.

At these activities, they will receive a code from their validated Learning Destination, to show attendance. The activities will be a mixture of community based activities, as well as programmes within school / after school onsite. As part of this programme we can help connect you to potential local organisations and charities that may help fill any gaps you've identified in your extra curricular / personal development opportunities.

Celebrating Success

Children and parents will be given access to CU Online, a digital platform where Learning Hours and certificates can be tracked.

Children are awarded certificates upon reaching a Bronze Award (30 hours), Silver Award (65 hours) and Gold Award (100 hours)

On achievement of a Gold Award, children are invited to graduate at a formal ceremony wearing a cap and gown.



Children's University Online

Children's University Online is the digital platform that's a fun, safe and secure online space for participants to record what they're doing.

It's great for children and families, schools, and makes it easier for learning providers to get their activities validated.

For schools

Schools will be able to monitor the participation of the children through the online platform and report on the activities that they take part in, both inside and outside of school. Easy-to-use printable reports will show what extracurricular opportunities the school has to offer their pupils, what skills are being developed in line with the Skills Builder framework, and what categories of learning are popular and where there is opportunity for development. It will also provide an easy way to monitor the number of encounters their pupils have with employers and FE/HE environments in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks.



Learning Destinations

Learning Destinations play a big part in the Children's University. They are where your students/families visit, whether in person or online, and take part in learning activities. Activities fall into two categories - **School Based Activities** & **Community Activities**

School Based

You are registered as a Learning Destination once your school is a member school with the Children's University. Your school activities can be uploaded to CU Online where only your pupils can view them. Activities may include before and after school clubs, special projects or holiday activities, providing there is learning involved. You can upload activities yourself, or a member of our team can. If you are unsure if an activity can be included, please get in touch.

Community

A public Learning Destination is any activity provider who is validated with the Children's University. These can be local to Harrow, or they may be nationally validated. There are also a number of online Learning Destinations who have been validated in response to the need for online learning in the past. All Learning Destinations have been validated by a trained member of our CU team to ensure high quality learning takes place.



The Support Package

John Lyon's Charity has funded the programme for Harrow, which means schools receive:

- Use of the Children's University logo
- Validation of your activities
- graduation ceremonies including the loan of caps and gowns
- Regular assemblies as required
- Partnership support to connect you to local validated providers that may run activities in your school
- Access to wider community-based validated activities
- The opportunity to take part in activities provided by Harrow School / John Lyon's School
- Admin support from the CU project coordinator
- Access to the digital platform for school staff and pupils

Commitment From Schools

This a programme is funded by John Lyon's Charity so the programme is FREE. There are some commitments we expect from the partner school

- Commit to an initial needs analysis meeting
- To provide a named member of staff to work with our project manager to help implement the programme in your school
- To work with students to encourage and support them to keep their online learning passport up to date
- To help keep parents informed and engaged with the programme (we will provide you with materials for you to share)



Get in touch

If you would like to discuss the Children's University offer in your school, contact **Ceri Morris** (Partnerships Manager at Young Harrow Foundation)

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