

York Children's University Passport to Learning Scheme

Information for Parents and Guardians

York Children's University (York CU)

The Children's University is a national scheme which seeks to engage children aged 5–14, in fun, quality extra-curricular activities that capture their imagination and foster a love of learning.

Through York Children's University children can participate in one of our in-school themed modules, [visiting a CU Learning Destination](#) on a weekend or trying out one of our new family workshops from CU in the City - there's something for everyone!

Children collect stickers in a special CU passport for all the clubs and activities they do out of school. The CU passport logs their hours as they work towards certification and an annual graduation style ceremony will be held at the University of York.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the Passport scheme work?

Children register with the scheme and buy a passport through either their participating school or one of our two passport hubs, York Theatre Royal and Visit York. Children can then take their Passports along to validated organisations, clubs or activities. Stickers/stamps will be distributed by the organisation or club to record the child's participation so that they can work towards certification.

2. What is a Learning Destination?

Learning Destinations are places, organisations or clubs which offer extra-curricular or out-of-school learning opportunities and activities, including one-off workshops or sessions, ongoing classes or projects. Any child involved with York CU can gain stickers/stamps for their passports at these destinations which count towards certification. All Learning Destinations are validated by York CU.

What counts?

- Validated local clubs and groups, for example sports clubs, arts or theatre groups, uniform groups
- Validated organisations with learning activities for children, e.g. libraries or museums
- Registered school clubs, for example cookery, art, craft, music or sports clubs (only at CU schools)
- The completion CU Challenges which link to school trips or in-class activities (only at CU schools)
- York CU Modules and Golden Moment trips or extra-curricular school trips (only 5 hours per year)

What doesn't count?

- Non validated activities, groups or locations
- Lessons as part of the curriculum, for example PE lessons
- Informal activities, such as playground games during break time
- Compulsory homework

3. How do I know what organisations or clubs are validated?

Please see our website for a full list of Learning Destinations:

<http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/york/Learning-Destinations>

4. Why validate?

Validating ensures the consistent quality of Learning Destinations, and is carried out against a national framework.

5. What happens if my child attends a non-validated club/activity?

If children are attending a club which is not validated then children are unable to gain stickers/stamps from the activity. However, if the club or organisation would like to be validated, then please ask them to contact York CU by emailing info@yorkcares.co.uk. Validation is a quick and simple process.

6. How do you log passport hours?

All children will be invited to 'bank their hours with York CU once a term. If your child attends a CU School the school will make arrangements for banking hours. Those who are registered through York Theatre Royal or Visit York will receive a letter inviting them to e-mail or phone in hours to York CU.

7. What happens if my child loses their Passport?

If a child loses their Passport they will need to purchase a new Passport from either their school or York Theatre Royal/Visit York. If the child has banked their hours where they purchased their Passport then they will be able to continue to count these hours, however if this has not occurred then the child will lose the hours.

8. Can my child gain stamps when we go on holiday?

Yes! There are validated Learning Destinations across the country. Please visit the Children's University Trust website (<http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/learning-destinations/>) for information.

9. What is graduation?

The graduation ceremony recognises children who have participated in the scheme and have gained more than 65 hours of out-of-school and extra-curricular learning. The graduation ceremony is held annually (usually March) at the University of York and invites are sent out to those who have reached over 65 hours by February.