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# North Somerset Children's University

## Information Pack

A guide to introduce you to  
Children's University



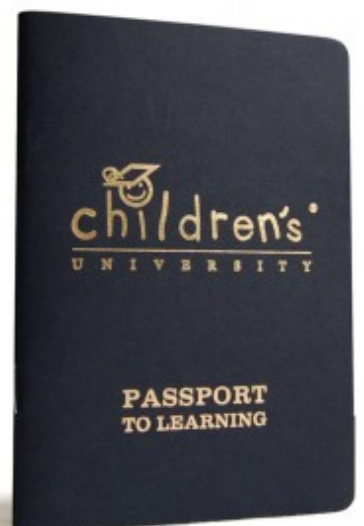
# What is Children's University?

Children's University (CU) was first established in the early 90s. It was originally created as a Saturday school in Birmingham but went on to become the CU Trust in 2006. Children's University is a charity that aims to help children develop a love for learning. Children's University works with children aged 5-14 and provides exciting and educational activities and experiences that children wouldn't get in a normal school day.

To encourage this love for learning, Children's University members are given the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities outside of school that will build their self-confidence and help them achieve their aspirations in the future. Research has shown that children that take part in extra-curricular activities build the resilience and ambition needed to help them on their journey to a successful future. With the positive impact of these activities, Children's University hopes to create an equal level of opportunity for all children.

## How does it work?

Once a child is a registered member of Children's University they will receive a Passport to Learning and their login details for Children's University Online. The children are then encouraged to take part in CU validated activities and visit CU Learning Destinations. Any activities that the children take part in should take place outside of the classroom but can occur during breakfast, lunch and afterschool clubs. For every activity that the children complete, they will get a stamp in their passport. Every stamp brings them closer to a certificate and a Children's University Graduation ceremony.



# Learning Destinations and Activities

CU members are given the opportunity to experience learning in a rich range of contexts. The activities on offer have been designed to be exciting yet educational and engaging, to ensure the children are having fun whilst also learning. All activities and Learning Destinations must go through a quality assurance process called CU Validation before becoming available to CU members. This is to ensure all activities are high quality and age appropriate for CU members.

## How much does it cost?

To purchase a CU membership and a Passport to Learning, we ask for a contribution of £3. This money goes towards helping us buy resources for future CU activities and ensure that we can keep this project running. This donation is usually made by the family of the CU member.

However, we understand that this might not be possible for everyone. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals or a Pupil Premium with their school, we may be able to cover the cost of their CU membership and Passport to Learning.

If you think this is applicable to your child, please contact us at  
**[childrens.university@weston.ac.uk](mailto:childrens.university@weston.ac.uk)**.



You can purchase a Passport  
to Learning via

**Childrens University  
Passport - Schools |  
Weston College Group  
Online Store**

# What are the benefits of becoming a CU Member?

For each child that takes part in Children's University, we want them to achieve the following outcomes:

To give children the opportunity to learn via exciting and new experiences.

To gain a sense of achievement beyond education.

To feel they have grown in self confidence and self-belief.

To raise aspirations and expand their ambitions.

To feel they have the power to make positive choices about their future.

To raise awareness of further and higher education and help children learn it is a viable option in their future.

To feel successful at succeeding in something beyond school.

To realise that learning is fun, aspirational and can extend beyond the classroom.

# What can members expect?

Children's University aims to work with a variety of different destinations and activity leads to provide high quality activities for our members.

Members will have the opportunity to take part in an array of different educational activities that will teach them about different topics and help them develop new skills.

North Somerset Children's University are always looking for new experiences and activities to get their members involved in.



Some activities currently available include:

**DIY Bird Feeder**  
**Become a Nature Pirate**  
**Mini Beast Hunt**  
**Clean Up the Beach**



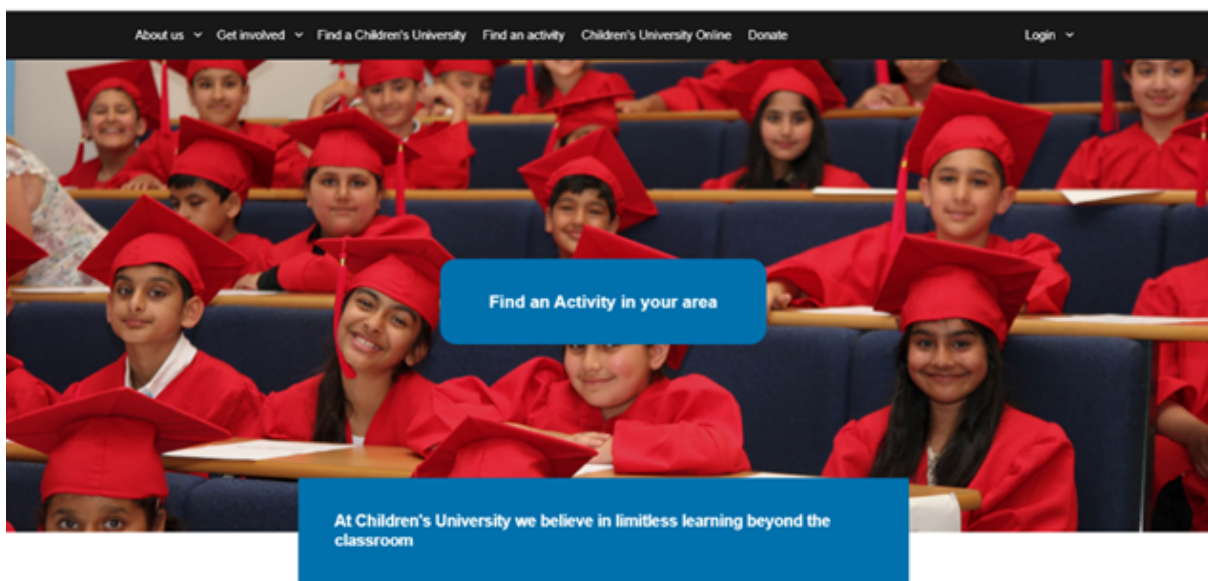
Some Learning Destinations we already have registered include:

**Puxton park**  
**Rising Stars Aikido**  
**Noah's Ark Zoo Farm**  
**University Centre Weston**

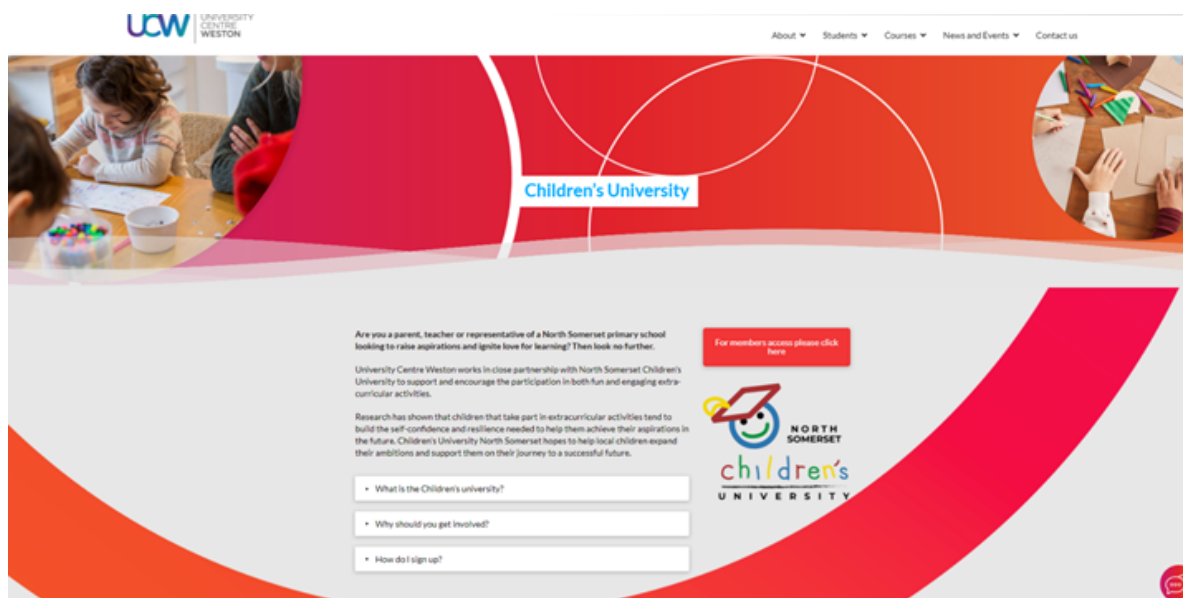


# How To Access Activities

Children's University Online is the hub where members can access their activities and stamp codes. Once members have their login details, they will be able to access a wide range of activities. There is even the opportunity to take part in activities posted by different Children's Universities.



North Somerset University Members will have access to a Members Only page on the UCW website. Here they can access resources needed to support activities and view updates from the Children's University Support Officer. Once children are signed up, they will receive the password needed to access this page.





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# Who can join North Somerset Children's University?

University Centre Weston have taken over this initiative from Weston College who previously ran North Somerset Children's University in recent years. Our current aim is to recruit any children who are interested in taking part in Children's University, and those who feel they would benefit from becoming a member.

We are looking to recruit children from all other North Somerset and give them the opportunity to experience a variety of different activities and visit new destinations.

## How do you get involved?

If you are interested in learning more about Children's University, please contact the North Somerset Children's University Officer to arrange a discussion. You can also visit the National CU website **[www.childrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk)** for more information.

The CU Officer will provide you and your children with detailed information about the process of becoming a CU member. It is not a difficult or time consuming process, and can even be completed over the phone! Your local CU Officer will be on hand to offer support and answer any questions you might have through every step of the process.

For more information, please contact the North Somerset Children's University Officer:

Name: **Molly Fairchild**

Email: **[childrens.university@weston.ac.uk](mailto:childrens.university@weston.ac.uk)**

Tel: **01934 411403**

North Somerset CU Website: **<https://www.ucw.ac.uk/childrens-university/>**