

**Welcome to the Essex Children's University (Registered Charity No: 1168871)**

**Our school is part of the Essex Children's University and your child has the chance to join. We had an assembly in school recently and lots of the children were interested in taking part. If your child takes part in an after school club or takes part in activities outside of school (for example dance, sports, arts) this is something that they would benefit from being involved with.**

Children's University is a learning programme which takes place outside of the school day: it encourages children aged 5 to 14 to try new experiences; develop new interests and gain new skills. Children can, and do, learn anywhere, when doing all sorts of activities. Children often learn best when *they* decide what they want to learn, when and where, and most important of all, have FUN whilst learning.

Children who join the Children's University have an individually numbered 'Passport to Learning'. They collect stamps and stickers to show the number of hours of learning they take part in at after school clubs, activities outside of school and visits to local attractions too.

Children's University offers lots of learning activities which have no cost or are low cost.

Children who take part are working towards National Children's University Awards which are presented at a Children's University Graduation Ceremony.

Children's University encourages children to try **new activities** and **unfamiliar experiences** as well as taking part in their regular clubs and activities. There are some simple rules in place which explain how children can collect the hours. We will send these details to you if your child decides they would like to take part.

The cost for Children's University Membership is £5.00 and which each child will receive:

- Their own Passport to Learning
- Details of Children's University learning destinations, where children can collect their hours.
- CU certificates for 30, 65 and 100 hours of out of school hours learning. The certificates can lead to the highest award of 1,000 hour.
- Children receive their awards at a Children's University Graduation, at the University of Essex. They dress in Graduation robes to receive their awards and they can invite 2 guests too.

We all want to support children to become inquisitive, confident, independent children and learners and most importantly to enjoy being involved and feel they have achieved too.

If your child would like to join the Children's University, please complete the slip attached and return to the school office.

Essex Children's University have a Facebook page which can be found at [www.facebook.com/essexchildrensuniversity](http://www.facebook.com/essexchildrensuniversity) and also a Twitter account [www.twitter.com/EssexCU](http://www.twitter.com/EssexCU)

They also have a website [www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk).

To receive Essex Children's University email newsletter please email Sally on [admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk](mailto:admin@essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk) and ask to be added to the newsletter list. If you decide you no longer wish to receive the newsletter you can opt out too.