



U N I V E R S I T Y

Children can travel around Braintree, Colchester and of course the UK with their Passports to Learning, collecting stamps as they go. After all, travel is what a Passport is for!

If you see this sign, it means you can get your Passport stamped there, as it is a 'Validated Children's University Learning Destination'.

### What is the Children's University?

The Children's University (CU) is a national organisation with a growing number of Children's Universities around the Country. Braintree Children's University is part of this.

At White Court School, we have previously introduced this from Year 2 up to Year 6. We now include children that are aged 5 and 6, but please remember they need to include at least 5 hours of family learning for each award (this could, for example, be an activity run by Essex Wildlife Trust). Children that are aged 4 years or below cannot yet be part of the Children's University.

Children from 5 - 11 yrs can join us and, with their Passport to Learning, take part in exciting activities and learning experiences, collecting stamps as they go. For every hour of learning they take part in, it works towards national Awards. This is a way to encourage children to take part in new clubs, and to also give credit to those that already do lots of clubs.



## How does it work?

When the children attend a validated club, they collect those hours in their Children's University Passport. These can be the Key Stage 2 clubs we provide for free at White Court School, Clubs that use White Court's facilities such as White Court Dance, Shinjitsu Martial Arts, PremierSport as well as clubs further afield such as Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Colchester Zoo and many more across the country. The Braintree Library's 'Summer Reading Challenge' is also included. See the last page to see how to find out what clubs are available. There are also holiday time activity sheets that can be completed.

## Graduation

Once the children have earned 30 hours they can attend their first graduation, this is usually at a local place of higher education (the gown, hat and sash are all provided free of charge).



There are lots of certificates to be earned, well up to (and over) 1000 hours, so there is always something to strive for!

In order to achieve each new award, the children need to have participated in **at least 10 hours of 'something new'**, the holiday activity sheets are a great way of earning these extra hours. Also, a single club can only contribute towards 30 hours per year or 10 hours per term.

## Can you help us?

We're really keen to work with children and families to promote good quality learning.

Like children, we don't always know what's available until somebody shows us. So, if your child attends an activity you think should be part of the Braintree Children's University, we'd love to hear from you.

If we think they meet the CU standards we can then get them validated. The next 2 sections will help you with this.

First, ask the club leader if they would like to be involved, then get your child to collect a Nomination Form from the display in the library. Once you have filled it in, return it to us. We will do the rest from there.

## What type of activities are included?

That's an easy question to answer:

- Any activity that takes place **outside of the school day** and which your child attends **voluntarily** ... they go because they choose to,
- The activity must be a recognised Children's University Learning Destination, which means that it offers high quality learning.

So, activities will include, for example, CU clubs which run before, during lunchtime or after school; visits to tourist attractions such as Museums, formal sports coaching activities, participation in clubs and societies which might include music, drama, Scouting and Guiding groups.

## Qualities of the activities that we would be looking for:

Voluntary Outside of the School Day Engaging  
Celebrates Achievement Raises Expectation  
Opportunities for Different Learning Styles  
Improves Confidence Self-evaluative  
Children can take on different Roles and Responsibilities

## Where can I find out more?

The website is a good place to start as it is regularly updated with Children's University news and activities:

[www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk](http://www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk)

To find a list of the clubs that are validated, called Learning Destinations. Click on the link that says 'Learning Destinations', then you will see there are 2 types of Learning Destinations - Restricted (for members of organisations and pupils of the school) and Public (anyone can attend).

## What does it cost?

Membership of the Children's University has increased to £5.00 and this provides your child with a Passport to Learning, where your child can record their own achievements. This can be organised through White Court School, just pick up a Passport Request form from the display in the library, or ask at the Main Office, and return to us with the £5 enclosed.

More information and resources can also be found on the school website [www.whitecourt.essex.sch.uk](http://www.whitecourt.essex.sch.uk) simply hover over the 'Childrens Zone' tab and click on 'Childrens University'. All of the holiday activity sheets Are uploaded to this page as well as photos from the graduations.



If you have any questions then just pop in and see [Mr Pryke](#) and he will be happy to help you!