

# An overview of Children's University Online (CUO)

In 2019 we launched our digital platform, Children's University Online (CUO), to work alongside our long-established paper passport and add value for children, families, schools and partners. It is a fun, safe, and secure online space for participants to record which activities they are doing beyond the classroom.

## For learning providers



Anyone delivering or providing learning opportunities for children can submit their activities for validation using an [online form](#)<sup>1</sup>. Children's University managers then review and approve submissions and contact the learning provider. On approval by the manager, they are given a stamp code that is unique to their activity. These codes are then given to children by the provider on completion of an activity. Each stamp equates to approximately one hour of structured learning and is simple and memorable so it can be written by a child in their passport; it is a colour and a four-digit number (e.g. Red 2431).

## For children



Children collect stamp codes in their 'Passport to Learning' that they can then submit online. Schools that are part of our programme simply create online accounts for all participating children who are then given their own unique username and secure password. Children can log in from any internet-enabled device and view their personally unique dashboard. This dashboard gives children a place to:

- see their progress against the Children's University Award Levels
- submit stamp codes for activities they have completed
- watch their interests and skills develop as they see the categories of learning they most engage with and;
- find new activities in their school, local area, to do at home and online.

1. <https://childrensuniversity.co.uk/get-involved/learning-providers/>

# An overview of Children's University Online (CUO)

This is what a child's dashboard looks like.

The screenshot shows a user dashboard for 'Jayden'. At the top left is the 'children's UNIVERSITY' logo. Navigation links include 'Your categories', 'Your skills', 'Get help', 'Find an activity', and 'Your Details'. A 'LOGOUT' button is in the top right. The main heading says 'Hi Jayden!' with a hand icon. Below it, a message reads 'This is your Children's University dashboard. Get started below!'. A 'Need help?' box with a question mark icon and 'ASK A QUESTION' button is on the right. The 'Add a new stamp' section features a 'ADD A STAMP' button and a 'DON'T HAVE A STAMP? CLICK HERE' button. The 'Add your own activity' section lists four categories: 'Places', 'Books', 'Films', and 'Experiences', each with a 'CHOOSE THIS' link. A 'Recent stamps' list shows four items: 'Build a robot Tuesday', 'Martial Arts Tuesday', 'Break dancing Tuesday', and 'STEM Club Tuesday'. At the bottom left, a 'Great work! You've done 105 Hours so far' message is accompanied by a thumbs up icon and a clock icon. On the bottom right, a progress bar shows 'YOUR CURRENT LEVEL Gold Award' and 'YOUR PROGRESS: 105/130 hours'. Below the progress bar, it indicates the 'NEXT LEVEL Bronze Certificate' and a 'FIND AN ACTIVITY' button.

**children's UNIVERSITY**

[Your categories](#) [Your skills](#) [Get help](#) [Find an activity](#) [Your Details](#) [LOGOUT](#)

## Hi Jayden!

This is your Children's University dashboard.  
Get started below!

**Need help?**  
If you have a question you can ask it here  
[ASK A QUESTION](#)

### + Add a new stamp

If you've been given a stamp code for taking part in an activity, add it here!

[ADD A STAMP](#) [DON'T HAVE A STAMP? CLICK HERE](#)

### + Add your own activity

Have you done something new that you think you should get a Children's University stamp for? You can share information about this here and get a stamp. You can do up to 10 of each of these each year!

- Places**  
Tell us about a place you've been to and what you learned.  
0/10 CREATED THIS YEAR  
[CHOOSE THIS](#)
- Books**  
Tell us about a book you read and what you thought of it.  
0/10 CREATED THIS YEAR  
[CHOOSE THIS](#)
- Films**  
Tell us about a film you watched and what you thought of it.  
0/10 CREATED THIS YEAR  
[CHOOSE THIS](#)
- Experiences**  
Tell us about a new experience you've had and what you learned.  
0/10 CREATED THIS YEAR  
[CHOOSE THIS](#)

### Recent stamps

[VIEW ALL AND REFLECT](#)

- 1 HRS Build a robot Tuesday
- 1 HRS Martial Arts Tuesday
- 1 HRS Break dancing Tuesday
- 1 HRS STEM Club Tuesday

**Great work! You've done 105 Hours so far**

**YOUR CURRENT LEVEL Gold Award**  
YOUR PROGRESS: 105/130 hours

**NEXT LEVEL Bronze Certificate** [FIND AN ACTIVITY](#)

# An overview of Children's University Online (CUO)

Zooming into the same image we can see a child's general progress in hours and how it fits within the Children's University Award levels.



Further down the same dashboard a child is shown the top skills and categories that they have developed by participating in tagged activities.



By clicking 'View all skills' or 'View all categories', a child can see how their total number of hours breaks down by the skills that have been tagged. All of this is also viewable by their schools.

# An overview of Children's University Online (CUO)

## For schools

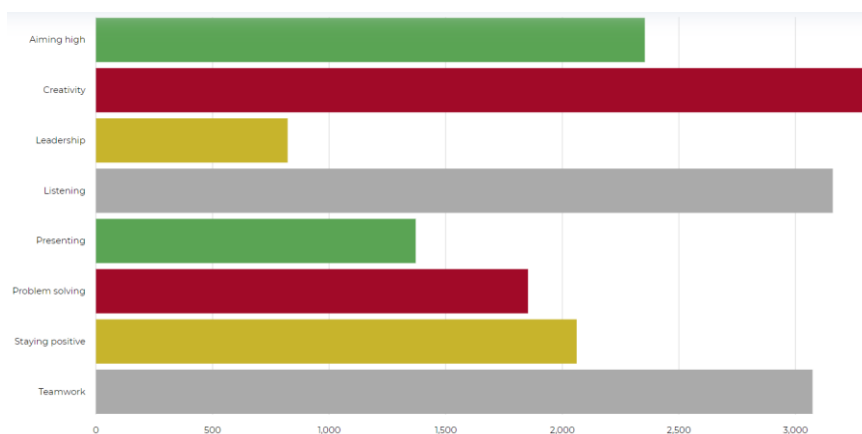


Schools are given a secure log-in to access their own school-level dashboard. Schools can then administer children's accounts and view their pupils' participation. They can also add and validate their own extra-curricular activities taking place within the school, at lunch time or after the bell rings.

At a glance, schools can view simple but important reports showing:

- participation by gender and age group within the school
- the school's extra-curricular offering and participation according to skills and categories
- cold spots/areas of success and high engagement among pupils
- their pupils' engagement with HE/FE and employers in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks

This screenshot from CUO illustrates the kind of information that is generated at a school, local and national level. Seen here is a graph showing the availability of activities (quantity) for children as per the tagged skills.



Actionable data such as this enables schools to make better decisions regarding their extra-curricular offer and can be used to demonstrate their provision to stakeholders such as parents, colleagues, Ofsted and the Local Authority. For example, in the illustration above one can see that there are significant numbers of activities geared towards developing creativity in participants. Proportionally, there are far fewer activities that will provide participants the opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

# An overview of Children's University Online (CUO)

## For Children's University



All activity provision and participation data within CUO is visible to Children's University Trust at a national level<sup>2</sup>. This means that as an organisation we have a unique insight into the state of the nation when it comes to learning beyond the classroom.

At a national level, we use this data:

- to monitor participation and help share best practice within our network
- to open access to more opportunities and broker relationships with local, regional and national providers
- to highlight nationwide cold spots/areas of success and high engagement
- to compile a national picture of provision and participation to inform policy.

No other organisation collates and quantifies information about extra-curricular activity provision on such a broad spectrum of subject areas, themes and categories and from such varying providers. Similarly, no other organisation can collate and quantify participation data from children spread as widely across the country. As our network grows, our number of activities increases, and our userbase widens, this picture of the state of the nation will only get clearer, more detailed and more important.

**“No other organisation collates and quantifies information about extra-curricular activity provision on such a broad spectrum of subject areas, themes and categories and from such varying providers.”**

2. This is, naturally, fully GDPR compliant. A full privacy policy can be found at [childrensuniversity.co.uk/privacy-policy](https://childrensuniversity.co.uk/privacy-policy) and a useable school data protection impact assessment (DPIA) is available at [childrensuniversity.co.uk/about-us/accountability-and-transparency](https://childrensuniversity.co.uk/about-us/accountability-and-transparency).