

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Partnership Award

Names of institutions involved in the partnership

University of Plymouth & Children's University Trust

Brief Description

University of Plymouth has a long-established partnership with the national Children's University Trust. We collaborate with over 100 primary schools and 2,700 school pupils in Cornwall and Devon and validate 710 learning destinations in the southwest region so that students can gain additional hours of learning from extracurricular activities. This partnership encourages young people to participate in outside the classroom learning to increase their in-classroom attainment and ultimately progression to higher education.

Why has this project been nominated

University of Plymouth has a long-established partnership with the national Children's University Trust which has been in existence for nearly a decade. The University and Children's University Trust collaborate throughout Cornwall and Devon working in partnership with over 100 primary schools and supporting delivery to 2,700 school pupils. We validate 710 learning destinations in the southwest so pupils can gain hours of learning from extracurricular activities in their Children's University passport to learning.

Children's University is a charity and national initiative. Primary aged pupils can attend different activities, provided by the University, external organisations or extracurricular sessions outside of school hours through the programme. For every activity they attend, they get a stamp in their passport to learning, which in turn add up to bronze, silver and gold awards. Children are presented with their award in school, once they reach a gold level, they are invited to a primary graduation ceremony, held annually at the University of Plymouth campus to celebrate their achievements with their parents or guardians.

The graduation ceremonies are similar to an undergraduate ceremony. Children's Author David Lawrence-Jones and University of Plymouth Geology academic Dr. Jody Fisher act as Chancellors to highlight positive role models in key subject areas of English and women working in STEM. The impact from students participating in these activities is proven to be positive which is why we're committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity, breaking down barriers to higher education and opening up access to children of all backgrounds.