

Stores as Classrooms Guide

'Stores as Classrooms' is a simple but highly effective initiative. We want to be able to serve and support the communities where we trade and encourage schools to use our stores as classrooms to deliver lessons that fit their curriculum and project needs during the academic year.

Our Society vision is to improve the quality of our members' lives in the communities where we trade. To achieve this we strive to become the best consumer Co-operative serving our local communities. As our stores are prominent in their communities this initiative will engage stores, colleagues and customers to engage with local schools and demonstrate through our values how we develop young people and improve lives.

In this pack you will find;

- Summary of the programme
- Aims and objectives and benefits
- Roles and responsibilities
- Programme adaptations for smaller sites
- Sample programme timetable
- Script for colleagues
- Programme checklist
- Midcounties fact file
- Example press release
- Evaluation form

Example worksheets and evaluation form are available to download separately on our website.

Aims and Objectives

- To build on our relationships with primary schools in our communities.
- To give young people an experience and understanding of The Midcounties Co-operative.
- To share our DOES values with young people in our communities
- To develop young people as citizens in their community.
- To assist primary schools in our local communities to inspire young people.
- To encourage primary schools to use key stores as a resource for teaching and learning
- To give young people an opportunity to apply skills and knowledge learnt in school in a real life setting.
- To provide volunteering opportunities for colleagues.

Business Benefits

- To engage with our communities and members
- To build a positive reputation
- To increase footfall
- To improve colleague participation
- Support co-operative values
- Develop our future customers

Young People Benefits

- Having an active role in the local community
- Finding out about different jobs
- Bringing learning to life
- Team working
- Learning in a fun, interactive and different environment

School Benefits

- Supporting the curriculum
- Creating positive attitudes to work
- Providing a different learning environment
- Inspiring young people
- Developing our future citizens

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Young Co-operators Network team** can assist with identifying a school local to a store and will, if required, introduce Stores as Classrooms to the school. It is likely that Store managers and their colleagues will already be aware of and have contacts with relevant local schools and could make initial contact.

Before the visit the Store Manager (or YCN team if appropriate) will brief the teacher to explain the purpose and benefits to the programme. Store Managers will describe how a visit to the store will work, the roles and responsibilities of those involved and provide an example of the running order for the visit.

Store Managers and Colleagues

When a school has agreed to use a Store as a Classroom the Young Co-operators Network team or Store Manager will discuss with the teacher the running order, any logistics or resources required and the format for the visit.

Before the visit:

- The Store Manager will brief colleagues and identify a day to day contact for the school visit and nominate other colleague volunteers who will be involved on the day.
- Confirm the number of pupils and the visit times.
- Ask the teacher to arrange the class into smaller groups when exploring the store.

During the visit:

- Store Manager (or nominated colleague) will lead the introduction. There is an example script available further on in this pack. In some instances it may be helpful to provide a sketch map of the store for the teachers to aid their visit.
- Assist teachers and staff by directing groups around the stores.
- Meet and greet the school teachers and welcome the pupils to the store and escort them to the Hub.
- Support the smooth running of the lesson

OPTIONAL - The Store Manager will arrange for and 'bag up' simple goody bags for the pupils to take with them. A sample goody bag could include: a drink, a banana (fairtrade), an orange or apple and a crème egg (Easter) or similar.)

Teachers

Before the visit the teacher will;

- Set out the tasks they wish the pupils to undertake.
- Arrange the pupils into small groups
- Assign a member of staff to each group.
- Arrange parental consent forms for the visit and consent for photographs

During the visit they will:

- Manage the behaviour and health and safety of all pupils and teaching staff.
- Liaise closely with store colleagues during the visit.
- Use the 'Hub' as a base for the class and to complete the lesson tasks

Adaptations for smaller stores or older groups

Although the Stores as Classrooms programme has been designed with primary schools and large stores in mind, the format can be adapted to suit a smaller store or a group of older students.

In general the protocols and required elements of the programme including roles and responsibilities will remain the same.

What is likely to require change or adaptation will be;

- the size of school groups
- the activity and purpose for the visit
- timings
- involvement of colleagues
- additional resources required
- a space for the class to be welcomed and greeted and for departure.

All of the above can be determined by the Store Manager in discussion with the school and with advice from the YCN team.

The Young Co-operators Network team will advise Store Managers and agree any necessary logistical changes or specific changes required to the programme as above.

Examples of sessions that could work in a smaller store;

A small group of GCSE/A level students looking at product design/advertising.

A small group of primary or secondary students looking at food miles.

Sample lesson structure

Schedule 9.30 to 11.00

9.30 - Teachers and pupils arrive (typically on foot), at the store and are greeted by the colleague volunteer or Store Manager who will be responsible for their visit.

9.30- 9.45 - The teachers and pupils are then guided to the Hub or training room where they are formally welcomed to the store.

- The colleague will address the pupils informing them about The Midcounties Co-operative, how pleased we are to host them and provide some information about the store i.e. business groups that operate there, health and safety information and do's and don'ts when in the store.
- Teachers will then set the tasks for the pupils to complete and organise them into groups.

9.45 – 10.30 - Colleagues lead the pupils and teaching staff to the store to complete the tasks set.

The colleague remains in store on hand for queries and colleagues assist as necessary and when required.

10.30 – 10.50

- Colleagues lead pupils and teaching staff back to the training room.
- Pupils will use the room and time available to complete their lesson and complete any outstanding tasks; collate materials; and then prepare to leave.

10.50-11

- The colleague conducts thanks to the pupils and staff.

OPTIONAL - Colleagues hand out simple 'goody bags' to the children as a token of their visit.

Teachers then organise the class to leave the store guided out by colleagues who wave them off.

Resources

Schools are encouraged to conduct their lessons in our stores and may well use their own resources.

We have developed additional resources that schools may choose to utilise for example a Fair Trade Treasure Hunt for year 2 and a Maths Challenge for schools aimed at year 5. These are available to download from our website.

Script for Store Managers

The Store Manager will meet and greet the teachers and pupils on arrival at the store and escort them to the Hub for an introduction and briefing. Pupils will sit on the floor in the hub for the briefing.

This following script is suggested:

Welcome to the Midcounties Co-operative, X Store... I am, the Store Manager and I am delighted that you are here this morning/ afternoon.

Have any of you been to the store before? Ok ... well in this store you will see other people who work for The Midcounties Co-operative. Some colleagues work in food, some in our Travel Group, some in our Post Office, some in our HealthCare Group. But all of us work for The Midcounties Co-operative and there are now 8,000 of us so we are a big Co-operative. We are really pleased that you are here today using the Store as your classroom. We are here to serve our communities and we want to be the best at doing that. We have our Values which we describe as - DOES. You will see this word around the store. It stands for Democracy; Openness; Equality and Social Responsibility. These Values explain how we work. They are important to us and are probably similar to the values you have at your school.

Now before handing over to your teachers to explain the lesson you will be doing today there are some Do's and Dont's to remember.

This is a shop and we have customers who we want to serve.

We don't run about the shop and shout to each other

We respect other people in the shop and each other.

Are there any questions?

Now may I hand over to Miss/ Mr X to explain what you will be doing for the rest of your visit.

The Midcounties Co-operative Fact File

The Midcounties Co-operative is the largest independent co-operative in the UK. We have over 8,000 colleagues spread across around 450 sites, as well as over 700,000 members who enjoy a share in our profits, as well as knowing they are funding ethical activities and initiatives locally and around the world.

We strive 'to be a successful consumer co-operative working towards creating a better, fairer world and to enhance the lives of our colleagues, members, customers, and the communities we serve'.

That means that we are an ambitious business guided by the co-operative values and principles to ensure that everything we do benefits our members and the wider community.

Trading Area

Our Heartlands are in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Powys.

We also have trading presence nationwide through our Food, Pharmacy, Funeralcare, Travel, Childcare, Flexible Benefits and Energy businesses.



Press Releases

Stores as Classrooms is a great opportunity for a press release, as newspapers are usually keen to print stories about local schools.

Make sure you take the contact details of the lead teacher and check with them before taking any pictures of the children. Send the details of the event, the school contact details and any pictures you have to city press and ask them to create a press release for you.

Here is an example of one produced last year;

STUDENTS PUT LEARNING INTO PRACTICE AT KINGSWINFORD FOOD STORE

Schoolchildren in Kingswinford have been learning how to apply maths to everyday situations as part of a 'Stores as Classrooms' scheme run by The Midcounties Co-operative. Year Five pupils from Fairhaven Primary School visited the Kingswinford Co-operative Food store last week, to complete a challenge that puts the things they have learned in math lessons this term into practice.

This is the second session of the programme, after a successful pilot scheme saw younger pupils from the school attend the store in February to learn about Fairtrade products. This time around, the pupils were given a recipe card and were asked to source the ingredients from the store to an agreed budget, using their knowledge of maths skills such as multiplication and percentages.

The Midcounties Co-operative's 'Stores as Classrooms' initiative is part of its commitment to supporting the education of young people in the local community, and will be rolled out at more of the Society's food stores over the next six months.

Tom Garner, Deputy Headteacher at Fairhaven Primary School, said: "After a great first session, we were keen to get more of our pupils involved in the 'Stores as Classrooms' scheme, as applying the core subjects we teach them to their everyday lives is an important skill to grasp.

"Visiting The Midcounties Co-operative store to put this into practice was a fantastic opportunity for both teachers and pupils, and the lessons are something we can continue to draw on across a number of subjects throughout the summer term."

Head of Young People Engagement at The Midcounties Co-operative, said: "We are committed to investing in the education of young people in the local community and these sessions are a great way to engage with pupils about a range of important topics. The scheme with Fairhaven Primary School has been enjoyed by the children, our colleagues and customers and we look forward to working with other schools in the future to run more education sessions."



Stores As Classrooms Evaluation form for Schools

Name of School _____

Name of Store _____

Date of Visit _____

Year Group _____

Lesson/subject title _____

Please rate the following out of ten (ten being the highest)

Pre visit contact and arrangements	
Welcome and introduction	
Main activity	
Contribution to national curriculum targets	
Over all experience	

Would you wish to repeat a visit? YES / NO

Year Groups - (please circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6

Lesson Preferences _____

Additional Comments: