

Trustee Annual Report for 1st Harmony Hill Rainbow Unit

Charity Number 107023

1st July 2022 -30th June 2023

Charities Purposes

The purposes of this Rainbow unit are to

Educate girls and young women to help them develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world

Charities Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of 1st Harmony Hill Rainbow Unit are girls aged 4 – 7 years. During this year the unit had 17 girls attending weekly. The unit was run by 4 volunteers who are trained Leaders through Girlguiding together with one young volunteer leader in training, who successfully completed her training during the year.

The girls in the unit came from a wide area around Lambeg and from various different backgrounds, schools and communities.

Summary of charity's activities

Rainbows meet for an hour each week. The programme is varied to include games - individual and team, craft and musical activities, storytelling and badge work from the Girlguiding programme for Rainbows. Girls worked for and achieved badges about expressing themselves in different ways and communicating with others through different mediums. There were also badges about the History of Girlguiding, Halloween customs, Christmas traditions, learning about bears and their different habitats, and about the customs and celebration of the Coronation.

The girls made new friends within the group from different schools and backgrounds and learned to work with those of different ages. They learnt the importance of being kind and helpful to others within their family, friendship group and the wider community. The took part in a short performance for parents and friends to illustrate this'

They had outings for a fun activity day and 10 pin bowling.

The Leaders also took part in the Girlguiding trainings on First Aid and Safeguarding. One of the volunteers completed Girlguiding's Leadership programme during the year.

Benefit of activities

As always one big benefit of Rainbows is that girls meet others of similar age and from different schools and communities and so learn how to get along with others in a more informal setting. As a result of playing individual and team games they learn how to compete as individuals and also how to work in a team. These are valuable skills for life. There is also the added benefit of some extra physical activity during the meetings every week. Girls also learn that no one always wins but that everyone can have fun. They also learn that they need to be prepared to take part in activities not all of which they will really love

The wide range of craft activities undertaken allows girls to develop their coordination and artistic skills while having fun. Some of the activities also had an educational benefit.

This year's badgework concentrated on the theme of 'Express Myself' and involved communication in different ways, including listening to and telling stories. The girls also acted out a story showing the benefit of being kind and helpful to others they might meet in everyday life. To further increase their communication skills the girls turned this story into a short play which they performed for Guide Thinking Day to parents and friends. They also learned the importance of having their own views and being able to express them to others.

Learning about Girlguiding showed the girls how they are part of a world wide organisation for girls and how girls from all backgrounds and countries have much in common.

Badges on Halloween and Christmas traditions illustrated the wide variations across time and communities and that there are many different and valid ways of celebrating at personal, family and community level.

Badge about bears involved learning about climate and conservation and some geography as well as some cooking and decoration skills.

Rainbows is a voluntary activity and the fact that there was an excellent attendance rate indicates that the girls attending were clearly gaining benefit from the activities.

Statement of regard to Commission's guidance on public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public Benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

The Charity's objectives and activities were carried out by volunteers who received no payment and therefore ensuring that the charity provided no private benefit.

Report written by Eleanor Smylie and approved by all Trustees.

04/04/2024