

## SCHOOL TRIPS

# THE PEDAGOGY OF CURIOSITY, DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE

**“Children can only aspire to what they know exists.”**

**Dr Ger Graus OBE – Director of Education & Partnerships**

Imagine a 75,000sq.ft child-size City where kids are in charge. It is the aim of KidZania London to broaden horizons so that children can explore, aspire and begin to write their own narrative of the possible. To achieve this, children will grow to understand that learning can be a satellite navigation system to better places in life. Through role-play children instinctively grasp that learning is tangible and its outcomes have a purpose and a reality; that it answers ‘why’ questions and that it can be unending fun.

KidZania provides children with a safe, unique, and realistic educational environment that allows young people between the ages of four to 14 to do what comes naturally to them: imagining and role-playing traditionally adult activities and experiences – and as we know: “Experience is everything!”

As in the real world, children perform ‘jobs’ and are either remunerated for their work, as a pilot, firefighter, doctor, police officer, broadcaster, pit-lane engineer – or pay to shop or to be entertained. KidZania is a City built to scale for children, supported by leading multi-national, as well as more local, industry partners.

The first KidZania in the United Kingdom is at Westfield London. Nationally, there are plans for a further two over the next few years.

The key ingredients of the recipe that is ‘Education KidZania’ are – apart from a generous sprinkling of awe and wonder:

## CHILDREN

KidZania is the domain of all children aged four to 14 who want to join us. At KidZania, children are in charge of their own aspirations and their own learning journey, as we encourage world-of-work related independent learning through active participation and role-play – at KidZania grown-ups are there to be seen and not heard. This means that children may be accompanied by their grown-ups but the adults cannot take part in the actual learning activities: this is KidZania. Children will also be able to participate in special events, for example ‘Careers Fairs’. Our pricing reflects our aim to be inclusive.

Ezana, aged 11, said: “I get to do things I’ve always dreamed of doing but I never got a chance.”

## LEARNING

Learning is at the very heart of KidZania’s values; our learning experiences across the length and breadth of the curriculum will inspire and challenge children from ages four to 14. Learning at KidZania is: child-centred, fun, role-play based, free-range, passionate, creative, with a dose of reality, interactive, skill-focused, values-based, accessible to all, and safe.

Continually developing learning partnerships focusing on ‘Careers Awareness’ enables us to constantly adapt, change and improve over time and as part of future re-visits, the progression from ‘Careers Awareness’ to ‘Careers Education’ will have the opportunity to develop.

## PARENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

The quality of our learning offer, how it is accessed by the children and the difference it makes is a joint responsibility of KidZania, parents and families, schools and the children themselves of course.

Our continuous drive for improvement means that we consult with schools and educators locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We are developing a network of ‘KidZania Ambassador Schools’ – trusted critical friends who will help us become even better.

Vanessa Langley, executive head teacher at Arbourthorne and Gleadless Primary Schools, Sheffield, said: “Your passion for making a difference to children’s lives is tangible.”

## INDUSTRY PARTNERS AND LEARNING PARTNERS

Learning is everyone’s agenda. Where the child is the first teacher and the environment the third, the grown-up becomes the facilitator, the enabler, the coach, the switch that lights up the magic – the second teacher.

Industry partners on-site and learning partners elsewhere contribute to the third teacher status: they are the resource for learning, form the basis of content development, add a dose of reality. Industry and learning partners will also be the source of continuous change for the better including online pre- and post-visit provision such as ‘KidZania World Online’ and ‘KidZtalk’.



## EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

To support the educational development of children we at KidZania have teamed up with a group of internationally renowned educators, who are part of our educational ‘Think-Tank’. Their role is to support and challenge our educational thinking and practice and to help us innovate and plan for the future.

## EVALUATION

Evaluation of the quality of our provision and of impact as well as day to day monitoring are part of the wider KidZania quality assurance. Included in our evaluation are nationally recognised accreditations such as Quality in Study Support (QiSS), Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) and Adventure Mark.

We will be publishing a series of case stories and case studies from all over the country to share ideas, innovation and best practice.

KidZania London is engaging with a range of higher education partners including the University of Cambridge and Cass Business School. ■

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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