

Rotary for 7 to 12 year olds. This started in the USA approximately 20 years ago. It is supported by RIBI and there are currently 80 chartered Rotakid Clubs in the UK. In District 1070 there are at least 25 chartered clubs.

The Rotakids pledge:

To be fair to all

To serve my community

To show respect for others

BUT most importantly the children have fun

- If you and your Rotary club want to get involved with your local primary schools and work in the local community then this could be for you.
- It is good fun. The children are enthusiastic about it. You and the club are in a support role.

Ideas on how to start a Rotakids group

- Speak to your Rotary club about Rotakids and make sure you have support in the club. Note that this is not a one off project but a long term commitment.
- Choose a school where you already have a contact or which has been involved with Rotary before. E.g the school may have been involved with Kids Out or Rotary Stars or by participating in a Rotary competition.
- Ask to speak to a teacher you know and/or the teacher responsible for citizenship.
- Provide Rotakids leaflets.
- Outline the advantages to the pupils and how your Rotary club will support them and the teacher responsible.
- Make it clear that you are in a support role with ideas etc. and that you will be coming into the school on a regular basis, it could be once a month etc. also that this is not a one off project but a long term commitment between you and the school.

If possible go in with some ideas that the children could undertake.



- Rotakids is flexible but it is best to work with a committee of approx. 8 pupils. A suggested mix is 4 pupils from year 5 and 4 from year 6. This will provide continuity as the year 5 moves to year 6, and 4 more pupils are recruited from year 5.

How to recruit?

Based upon recommendations from teaching staff, as RotaKids becomes well-known in the school the committee could be chosen by a ballot of the children. There are no hard and fast rules!

Ideas for projects

Following are some suggestions. It is important to note that Rotakids do not have to fundraise, project ideas should be led by the Rotakids. Many pupils in schools do not come from affluent areas.

It is important that the projects are fun and within the capabilities of the children to organise (with adult help of course).

The following projects have been undertaken by Rotakids groups:

- Team Terry for a Motor Neurone sufferer, each class making and selling cakes.
- Skippathon for the British Heart Foundation, this will be advertised by a flashmob.
- Macmillan Coffee Event all their mothers helped with the making of the cakes.

Future projects planned:

They have contacted the mayor's office to find out his charity of the year and how they can support this, this could be good publicity for them and the Rotary Club.

Rotakids are contacting a local home for the elderly to see if they can help, perhaps the elderly people can help them such as learning to knit?

Other ideas/ projects:

- Canine partners perhaps the children could invite a speaker to come to the school.
- Litterpicks of rubbish around the school.
- Writing about the group and its activities for the school newspaper/ website/information for parents.
- Organising a notice board for Rotakids.
- Running a school assembly about Rotakids.
- Organising a speaker from Dogs for the disabled.

- Collect items for local charities as advertised in the local paper.
- Invite the mayor to an event.
- Junior fashion show
- Shoe box , Classroom boxes
- Plan a picnic
- Make a book of jokes
- Contact the local councillor about a play area
- Make some hedgehog boxes for a wildlife centre
- Plant an area of wild flowers
- Collect a mile of pennies for charity



These are examples .The Rotakids will have lots of ideas themselves

Useful Contacts and Costs:

Rotakids Badges: free contact Lesleyatyers@gmail.com

- Rotakids hats : approx £6 each (The cost goes down for orders over 48 caps). 8 caps will be supplied free as a start up for a new club.
www.logosew.co.uk 07900248053
- Rotakids regalia contact :Toye, Kenning and Spencer 024 7684 8800
- Rotakid leaflets for teachers and parents contact RIBI shop. The leaflets are free, there are also pledge cards this site is worth looking at.

Other sites:

www.ribi.org/youth/rotakids

Do keep in touch let me know how you are getting on, let's share project ideas
Lesleyatyers@gmail.com



What is Rotakids?

It is a chance for young children in schools to be introduced to the Rotary ideals. It is the fastest growing branch of Rotary. They will make good friends, grow in confidence and realise that they can make a difference to other people's lives.

RotaKids also helps the children to develop skills, such as: maths for counting money, English when making posters and sending letters etc. The children can use their enthusiasm, energy and determination to improve their world both in and outside school.