

PROJECT REPORT

Brief description of the project.

Planet Mercy UK is a project which was brought to our attention by a member of staff who knew we were looking to give up our time to a worthy cause within the Rochdale community. It's really important to us that we stay within our local community as this is our hometown and where we have been brought up. What better feeling than being able to give your time back and contribute and be a part of such a meaningful project.



Brief description of the team

We are an all girls group of 7 and are currently in year 11. This is an extremely important year for us. With exam season coming up our weekdays are very busy with revision and lots of late night studying. We are passionate about the town we reside in and are curious as to what goes on beyond our front doors. We knew that we wanted to put some of our social time to good use however, did not want to overwhelm ourselves where our learning would be affected. So, when Miss Cootes came and proposed that we get involved with a project which was already established within our local community and that we only had to give up 4 hours once a month we agreed that this was a manageable step in the right direction of impacting on social change.

Our Team

There are currently 7 of us in the group; Carla, Sophie, Dami, Ebony, Leah, Taylor and Deni. We started as a group of 5 members of the school's aspiration group. We have increased by 2 members which is fantastic as they wanted to make a difference just like the other 5 of us. We started volunteering our time on a Sunday back in November 2016. We give up one Sunday every month between the hours from 11am until 2pm.

Brief description of Planet Mercy UK

Planet Mercy is an innovative and non profit organisation which has one simple goal, which is to serve humanity and build community through concepts of love, mercy, tolerance and cohesion. Planet Mercy organises a number of social and recreational events, throughout the year, to cater to various members of the community, from providing sporting activities for teenagers to get togethers for new mothers. The activities cater specifically to the needs of all members of the community.

Impact

By raising money from the cake sale and the non uniform day, we are having an impact on the individuals at Planet mercy UK. We are able to make food goody bags from the money raised , for families who are in need of food . In school we have promoted this association by making powerpoints and posters in a bid to get more supplies such as clothing and books for those who attend Planet Mercy. We know that we have had an impact on the community by the amount of donations now being left in schools and the amount of refugees attending the programme.

Skills gained

Whilst taking part in this project we have gained skills such as composure under times of stress and not to lose our cool when talking to the people we are helping as there is a speech barrier between us and some of the people at the shelter. Leadership skills were gained when we organised a bake sale which we stayed behind in our own time to bake for and then the following day continued to use our communication skills whilst selling to students and staff around the school. Also we used leadership skills to organise a non-uniform day which is set to be on the 31st of March. We have also developed good communication and organisation skills with one another as we had to collaborate together to organise these events. Since beginning this project, all of us in the group feel more confident in terms of speaking to people we've never met previously and interacting with them. We feel more sympathetic towards the less fortunate and recognise the problems they face on a daily basis. Also we attained the skill of resilience as sometimes it is a struggle to get out of bed early on a sunday morning and make our way to school however we recognise their circumstances and would still like to create a positive impact.

