

# How to set up a Credit Union collection point in your school

Schools approach the Credit Union

(to find your nearest check [www.walescoop.com](http://www.walescoop.com) or phone 029 2055 4955)

Credit Unions approach the school.

A senior member from the school staff and someone from the credit union working on schools development meet. This might be a Schools Development Officer or the Manager – depending on arrangements at your local credit union. They can discuss their interest and capacity to support the idea.

The school can then see if a teacher is interested to take this forward – this could be a Business Studies, Welsh Baccalaureate, Maths, PSE or other subject teacher.

The teacher and credit union representative discuss ideas and their availability to run and support the project.

CU@theCU lesson and activities can provide the background to credit unions and inspiration to start one.

A team of pupils will need to get together to run the collection point. They will need training with a Credit Union representative. This could be Year 8, 9 or 10 depending on the school set up and you may need 2 or 3 training sessions.

Optional market research as to the preferred style for look and feel, opening times etc.

Organise promotional materials and do a soft launch with one year group. The pupils could do a presentation. You could start with the year group who have learnt about credit unions or a younger year group. Use this phase to evaluate the system and make any changes to make it run more smoothly.

Official launch – invite local VIPs and the media and get some momentum. If you are taking a whole ethical approach – don't forget to think about ethical and environmentally friendly promotional materials.

Review progress – do you need to change anything to recruit more members? Do market research of members as to why they joined – or the target market and what would make them join. The Credit Unions representative may be able to step back as the collection point becomes self sufficient.

Pupils train another year group so the collection point is sustainable.

# How to set up a Credit Union collection point in your school

## Case Study

Dyffryn School in Neath Port Talbot was the first secondary school in Wales to set up a collection point with the help of Neath Port Talbot Credit Union. Here's how they did it.

Responding to the Welsh Assembly Governments commitment for every secondary school pupil in Wales to get access to a credit union, Neath Port Talbot Credit Union took up the opportunity.

With the support of their Local Education Authority, Development Worker Brian Warlow organised a meeting with local Headmasters to see if any schools were interested in working together to start a collection point.

From there a relationship developed with Dyffryn School in Margam, near Port Talbot.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Teacher, Karen Thomas, and the Credit Union worker organised a session where the Credit Union worker came to talk to Year 10 pupils about credit unions.

There was enough interest from the pupils to set up a collection point and so 2/3 training sessions were held to train the pupils start running a collection point.

Brian says "It is imperative we encourage youngsters to save, we will be breaking the chain of generation after generation being constantly in debt to doorstep lenders and loan sharks."

Dyffryn school finds it helped the pupils get experience of planning, communication, co-operative working, accountancy and training peers.

What do the pupils say? Rachel is one of the volunteers running the collection point and explains: "We weren't used to saving at first. Then we realised it's easy to save a little bit at a time."

"It's great to have our own little bank instead of always asking our parents for money. Taking part in the Credit Union and talking to new people has really boosted my confidence."



### **Dyffryn School Credit Union Collection Point vital ingredients:**

**50 members**

**1 Teacher to help run it**

**2 Credit Union staff involved in helping to train and start-up**

**Started February 2009**

For more information about the school email the Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator.  
[dyffryn@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk](mailto:dyffryn@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk)