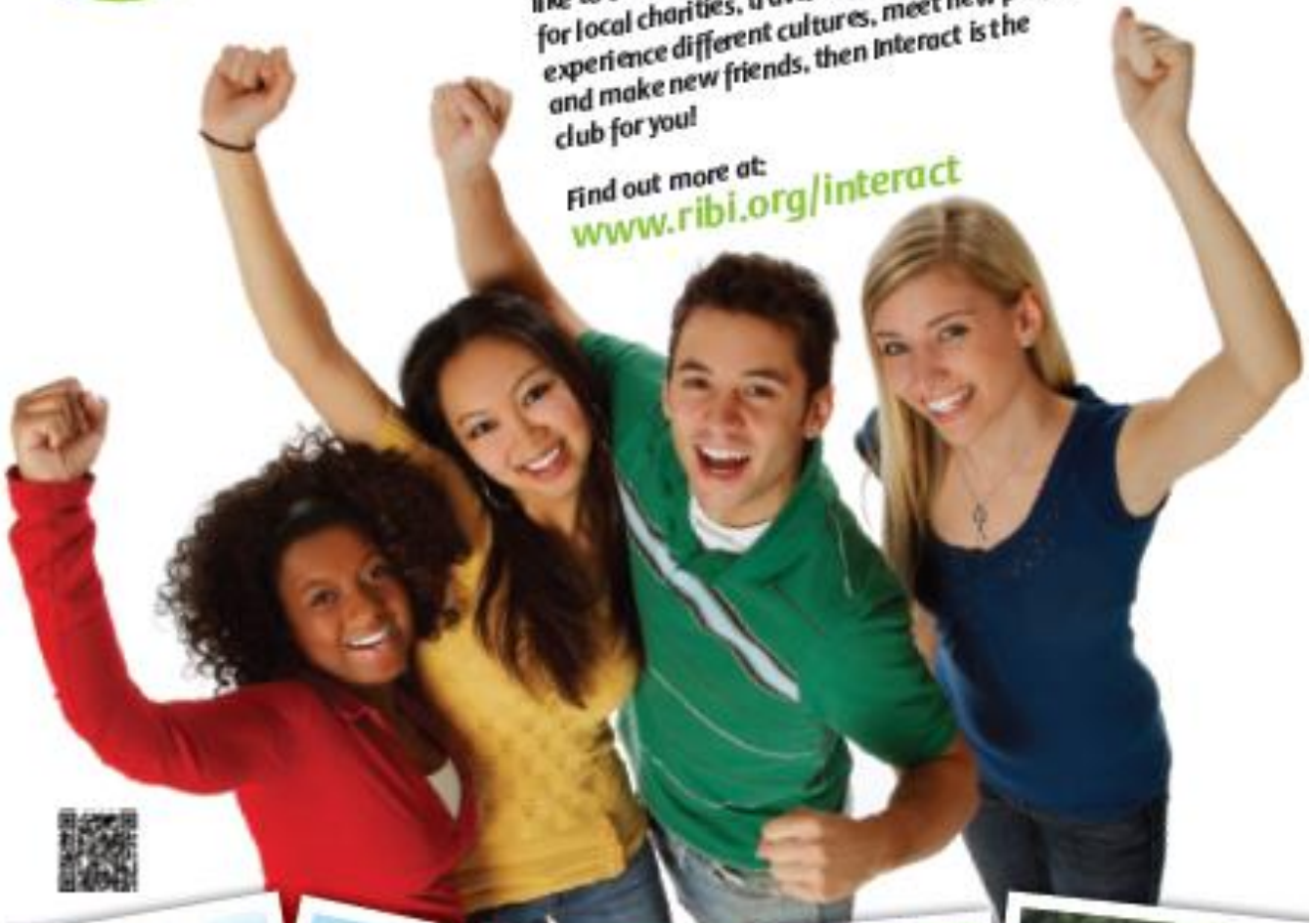




INTERACT

If you're aged between 12 and 18, and would like to take part in fun activities, raise money for local charities, travel to far-off countries, experience different cultures, meet new people and make new friends, then Interact is the club for you!

Find out more at:
www.ribi.org/interact



This handbook is to be used in conjunction with the RI Interact Handbook

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/sponsor-interact-club>

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1 - What is Interact?

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

The name Interact is derived from two words - International Action

The 1st Interact club was chartered in Melbourne, Florida, USA in 1962. There are over 10,700 clubs in 109 different countries, with over 200,000 members.

Club membership varies greatly. Clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community or can be community based for example within a youth group.

However, in some cases, students under the age of 12 or over the age of 18 may be members of a pre-university level school-based Interact club when the student body already includes youth ages 12-18 subject to the policies of the school authorities. For example, if the student body at a school is for ages 10-13, then members of the Interact club could be ages 10-13 at the school.

2 – What are its objectives?

Purpose – To provide opportunities for young people to work together, dedicated to service and understanding

Objectives - Develop leadership skills and self-confidence through teamwork and doing things for others

- Give service to the community and international service
- To encourage and practice thoughtfulness and helpfulness
- Build respect for rights of others, based on recognition of the worth of individuals
- Develop personal integrity
- Advance international understanding and goodwill
- To promote opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of local and world affairs
- Demonstrate helpfulness and respect for others
- Understand the value of individual responsibility and hard work

3 – What is an Interact Club?

What Interact does

- All activities are carried out by club members
- Elect club officers - President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, PRO, Committee Chairman - International, community, fellowship, fund raising
- Undertake a minimum of 2 projects per year - 1 community and 1 International
- Business meeting once a month, during school terms - short and sweet, then fun. Plus one other meeting at least per month
- The Rotary Interact Advisor needs to be present at all business meetings and many attend all meetings. Must have an adult at all meetings i.e. teacher, teaching assistant, youth leader, Rotarian
- Board/Club Council meets monthly in addition to club meetings

Committees –

Community - helping with Kids Out, assist in special needs units, organise outings for children/elderly/disabled, visiting elderly, help with shopping, cleaning.

International - twinning with other clubs, Youth Exchange, International projects, i.e. Shoe boxes, emergency boxes, Thanks for Life, Life Straws

Fellowship - social - discos, go-carting, fancy dress events

Fund raising - needs to be legal and safe i.e. sponsored events, walks, bag packing in a supermarket. Assisting at Rotary, Rotaract and RotaKids events



Insurance - Interact Clubs are covered by RIBI Rotary insurance. School based Interact clubs are also covered by school insurance – but check. This may also apply to a community group, i.e., Youth Club – but check. If an event is not covered by insurance, consult with RIBI insurance Brokers -

Bartlett Insurance brokers

0113 259 3636

ribi@bartlettgroup.com

4 – What is in it for young people?

- Fun, fellowship, meeting new people, developing life skills.
- The school curriculum now states that youngsters need to participate in ‘Community’ activities. Interact can be used to meet this.
- If undertaking ‘Baccalaureate’, Interact can fulfil the community aspect
- Interactors may be undertaking The Duke of Edinburgh Award. This may be in school or within a youth group i.e. Scout or Guide Interact club. Interact is a The Duke of Edinburgh Award Approved Activity Provider (AAP) - Volunteering. Hours completed for Interact community projects can be used for the volunteering section of The Duke of Edinburgh. See guidance notes within the members area of the RIBI [www http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/](http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/)

5 – What is in it for teachers, schools, youth organisations?

- To broaden the teacher and youth leaders own CV and extend their students experience and curriculum.
- Citizenship and Global awareness are part of the school curriculum and Interact can help enhance this part of curriculum.
- If undertaking ‘Baccalaureate’, Interact can fulfil the community aspect
- Interactors may be undertaking The Duke of Edinburgh Award. This may be in school or within a youth group i.e. Scout or Guide Interact club. Interact is a The Duke of Edinburgh Award Approved Activity Provider (AAP) - Volunteering. Hours completed for Interact community projects can be used for the volunteering section of The Duke of Edinburgh. See guidance notes within the members area of the RIBI [www http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/](http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/)
- An Ofsted inspector (different equivalent in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland) will ‘tick the box’ if a school has an Interact club

6 – What is in it for Rotarians and Rotary Clubs?

- **A source of future Rotaractors and Rotarians**
- **Encourage younger siblings to become RotaKids**
- **Parent and grandparent potential Rotarians**
- **Teachers and youth leaders potential Rotaractors and Rotarians**
- **Provides Rotary with another avenue of service**
- **Interact can build links with community, that can then benefit Rotary, i.e. with children - can identify better with each other**
- **Interactors, being younger and more able, both in energy and enthusiasm, can help Rotarians with projects that they may not be able to undertake**
- **Interact and Rotary provides a larger age range when working together.**

7 – What type of projects can be undertaken by Interactors?

Community

- Tree planting
- Collecting used stamps for 'Guide dogs for the Blind'
- Fund raising for local hospital
- Kids Out
- Helping at Old People's Homes
- Helping at Special Needs Schools
- Gardening for those who are unable to



International

- Thanks for Life
- Aqua boxes
- Shelter boxes,
- Life Straws
- Shoe boxes,
- Spec savers
- Children visiting from Chernobyl
- Sponsoring children in 3rd world countries



Fund raising

- Discos
- Bar-b-q
- Bucket collection
- Sponsored events
- Sponsorship from local businesses

These are examples where Interact and Rotary Clubs (with Rotaract and RotaKids) can work together on projects.

8 – What other events/opportunities are available to Interactors?

- **Interact Rallies and conferences - A team building day or weekend with the opportunity to exchange ideas with other Interactors and form links/friendships. These may be Regional or District**
- **Interact members are ideal candidates for RYLA, Youth Exchange programmes and all RIBI Youth Service competitions. They are future Peace and Ambassadorial scholars**
- **Use Interact to fulfil volunteering aspect of The Duke of Edinburgh Award**
- **Invite Interactors to attend meetings of the sponsor Rotary club and include them in service projects, such as polio eradication**
- **Share information about Rotary with Interactors to develop a lifelong interest in Rotary. Distribute Rotary publications such as the Governor's Monthly Letter, Rotary or regional magazine to Interact clubs**
- **Work with Interactors who have reached 18 or relocating, to find new potential Rotaract or Interact clubs. Some schools do not have 6th forms. These students may wish to join or form Interact clubs in colleges or the community.**
- **Consult with Interact clubs to develop a district-wide service project for all Interact clubs.**
- **Ask Interactors to give presentations on their club's projects at Rotary clubs, district meetings and district conference.**

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9 - How to start an Interact club

- **Must be sponsored and supported by a Rotary Club or clubs**
- **Suggest a subcommittee of 5 Rotarians from the sponsoring club(s). At least one needs to act as an advisor/mentor to the Interact Club.**
- **The school/youth group and the Rotary club(s) need to work together. Interact clubs work better where there is a teacher/youth leader within the school/youth group that is enthusiastic and will help.**
- **Initial meeting with teachers/youth leaders to discuss Interact and the benefits that can be achieved**
- **Suggested people who may attend interest meeting - Rotary Interact sub-committee, Rotary President, District Interact Officer, link teachers, Interactors from other clubs and potential Interactors. Not too many Rotarians, as this can be off putting**
- **At interest meeting for potential Interactors Rotary needs to make an inspirational presentation to the potential Interactors. For initial interest meeting suggest 30, to allow for wastage as you need at least 15 members – suggested, but not mandatory.**
- **Established Interactors will ‘sell’ Interact. Teachers/youth leaders from established Interact clubs can answer the ‘day to day’ questions of potential leaders.**
- **Need to establish membership criteria i.e. age - suggest not all from one year, as need continuity through the club - the younger members gain experience and move up ‘through the ranks’. Not too heavy towards one gender (if a mixed gender club).**
- **Need to establish time, place and day of meeting, taking into account school timetable (if school based).**
- **Need to establish what subscription (if any) the Interactors will pay**
- **Interactors that meet and carry out their programme during school based activities do not require an additional RIBI Interact consent form to be completed. If Interact is run outside school based activities, an RIBI**

Interact consent is required. An RIBI Interact consent is required for participation in The Duke of Edinburgh Awards, if Interact Community projects are being used to fulfil the voluntary aspect of The Duke of Edinburgh Award. The consent must be stored in a secure place. The RIBI Interact consent form is available to download at

<http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/>

- **Need to be informal, yet organised. Too formal and young people will not attend.**
- **Need an annual meeting (either at the end or beginning of the school year), to elect club officers and set the years objectives.**
- **Some school based Interact clubs will have handover i.e. prior to Easter, as older Interactors undertaking exams**
- **Club officers meet once a month outside of club meetings, to discuss issues (Club Council).**
- **50% attendance by members - ? Leave of absence for exams, school trips etc. Up to the club to decide how strict they are in enforcing attendance.**
- **Need to delegate jobs, belong to committees. Will get bored if just drifting.**
- **Belonging to Interact should not be used as a 'CV' or personal statement entry, (but it is liked on UCCA form and job application)**

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10 - Role of the Rotarian Liaison Officer

- **Rotarian must attend all Interact Club Council meetings**
- **Oversee all elections of Interact club officers**
- **Liaise between Interact Club and Rotary Club**
- **A responsible adult must attend each meeting i.e. Rotarian Liaison Officer, School Interact Advisor, teacher, teaching assistant, youth leader**
- **If i.e. School Interact Advisor unable to attend meeting – i.e. sickness, a Rotarian will deputise**
- **A Rotarian can be an Interactors assessor if they are undertaking The Duke of Edinburgh Award and using Interact community projects to fulfil their voluntary hours**
- **All involved Rotarians must adhere to and ensure appropriate steps are taken to ensure compliance with the RIBI Protection Policy**
- **Listen, take an interest and advise, but not take over**
- **Make recommendations**
- **Ensure that funds raised are properly managed. Need to be audited annually. Assist with setting up a bank account. Suggest that not only Interactors signatures to account, but also a Rotarian. It has happened that Interactors have left school/club gone to University/college/gap year and an Interact club cannot access their own bank account**
- **Ensure parental consent forms have been signed (where required). Consent forms to be stored securely, may be in the school/college/youth club if appropriate**

- **Ensure Interactors are invited to Rotary events and meetings i.e. speakers related to projects that they intend undertaking, club handover, District Governors visit**
- **Rotary can help provide speakers**
- **Joint projects**
Interact doesn't pay subs to parent organisation, but needs to cover running cost of club i.e. paper, badges, membership cards (if not paid by the sponsoring Rotary club(s))
- **Rotary Club usually buys President's chain of office, members pin badges and assists with set up cost - i.e. cost of paper, photocopying leaflets to publish and attract new members**
- **If a project fails, who picks up 'the bill'?**

11 - Compliance Requirements for Interact Mentors

RIBI Policy: Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability:

- The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority.
- It is the duty of every Rotarian, to the best of his or her ability, to safeguard the welfare of, and to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties.

To implement this Policy the following shall be done:

1) Protection: Appropriate steps must be taken to ensure compliance with the RIBI Safeguarding Policies for Children and Vulnerable Adults – see <http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/club-district-support/compliance/>.

All involved Rotarians must have an ‘Enhanced Disclosure and Barring’ check (‘PVG Scheme Membership through Disclosure Scotland’ in Scotland) carried out.

2) Consent: Interactors that meet and carry out their programme during school based activities, do not require an additional RIBI Interactors consent form to be completed. If Interact is run outside school based activities, RIBI Interact consent is required. Consent forms must be kept in a secure place. Consent forms are available to download from the RIBI website.

<http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/humanitarian-service-programmes/youth-service/programmes/>

3) Health and Safety: Interact events should be risk assessed. For school based Interact clubs the school should lead on this, using their processes, For Interact clubs outside schools Rotary risk assessment processes should be adopted – see <http://www.rotarygbi.org/members/club-district-support/compliance/health-safety/>; the Club Health & Safety Advisor should also help with the event risk assessment

4) Insurance: Normal activities by Interactors are covered by RIBI Rotary insurance. School based Interact clubs are also covered by school insurance.

If you are running an unusual event and are unsure about the Insurance situation refer to the guidance booklet “Insurance and the Rotary Club”. It is found on the RIBI website as follows: RIBI Home /For Members /Club & District Support /Compliance /Insurance/. If you are still unsure, ask your Club Secretary and H&S Advisor

● **12- Summary**

- **A group of young people between the ages of 12-18**
- **Can be either school or community based**
- **The opportunity to develop life skills – leadership, self-confidence, respect for others, thoughtfulness, helpfulness, personal integrity**
- **Minimum of 2 projects per year, 1 international, 1 community**
- **Use Interact to fulfil aspects of the school curriculum**
- **Interact can fulfil the volunteering aspect of Duke of Edinburgh Awards**
- **Must have committed and enthusiastic teacher. If the teacher is only running Interact club, because the headmaster has told them to, but have no interest, the club will not develop and grow. The teacher must have charisma**
- **Must have committed, enthusiastic Rotarians – not just because they are on that committee. Their lack of enthusiasm will communicate to the teacher and then the Interactors**
- **Most importantly – it must be ‘Serious Fun’. If the young people are not enjoying themselves and not gaining anything, they will become fed up and give up.**

• **13 – Resources available** (click to access)

- District Interact Officer
- RIBI Interact Officer – interact@rotarygbi.org
- RI & RIBI New Generations Newsletter
- RIBI Tri Fold Interact Leaflets – from RIBI shop (in secure area)
- [RIBI Interact Poster](#)
- [RI Interact Facebook page](#)
- [RIBI Interact Facebook page](#)
- [RI Interact YouTube site](#)
- [RI Interact Handbook](#) – (please note still states incorrect age of 14-18)
Within the handbook is the required forms to charter an Interact club.
Once completed send to RIBI to receive your Interact clubs charter
- [RIBI Interact directory](#)
- Various information sheets - Interact, Starting an Interact Club, Interact - What Is It and How Is It Formed, Interact Care and Guidance, Consent form
<http://www.rotarygbi.org/media/2015/11/Interact-Pack-2015-16.zip> (in the secure area)
- Other Interact Clubs and their advisors
- [RI Interact](#) Web site
- Interact Presidential chains, lapel badges can be obtained from [Toye, Kenning and Spencer](#)

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for its work with children, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability.

The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and persons with disability take priority.

It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of his or her ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact in their Rotarian duties.

Rotarians should refer to the detailed "RIBI Protection Policy" when planning events and activities.