

2 January, 2024

Dear Headteacher

World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world. World Thinking Day remains one of the most important dates in the guiding calendar, and every year the theme of the event encourages members to think about the big issues affecting them and their global community. Previous World Thinking Days have tackled the subjects of poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and access to education. Each year the World Thinking Day Fund supports girls and guiding across the world.

22nd February was chosen as the date for Thinking Day because it was the joint birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the scout and guide movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide.

One of the traditions of Thinking Day is that members of the Guiding movement wear their uniforms to school to show others that they are part of the movement. I am contacting you to see if your school would allow pupils from the local units to wear their guiding uniform to school for the day and ask if you could work with us to offer Girlguiding to your pupils.

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with over 320,000 members. Thanks to the dedication and support of over 80,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun. We run Rainbows (4-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) and Rangers (14-18 years).

Research by the Education Endowment Foundation shows that taking part in after school programmes improves academic achievement, particularly Girlguiding's key characteristics of collaborative learning and outdoor adventure learning. Guiding allows girls to further their knowledge, understanding and skills; build their confidence, aspirations and sense of achievement; try out activities and experiences not included in the curriculum; make independent choices and decisions about their participation; become involved in management and leadership of activities through age-appropriate leadership roles; and make new friends. All Girlguiding units are staffed by trained volunteers and supported by a volunteer team at local, regional and national levels. Girlguiding volunteers are given training and support by an experienced local volunteer team on everything from first aid to leadership skills, and volunteering opportunities range from running a local group to helping out with accounting or other administrative tasks.

Many thanks in advance for your time and support. I look forward to hearing from you soon

Kind regards



Jayne Treadwell
Girlguiding Hampshire West county commissioner

E: county_commissioner@gghw.org.uk. W: girlguidinghantswest.org.uk
County commissioner: J Treadwell Assistant county commissioner: S Riley County president: S Caine

