

Embassy for  
ReIMAGINING  
Rotherham

# MANIFESTO

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## The Embassy for REIMAGINING Rotherham

... is a place where anyone can imagine things in Rotherham – and improve them!

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The Embassy for Reimagining Rotherham (or ERR, for short) is a collaborative opinion-collecting project run by local children and young people. ERR aims to make Rotherham a safer and more fun place for everyone to be proud of!

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We have written a manifesto containing all of our ideas about how to make Rotherham a more interesting and inclusive place. Our manifesto describes all of the arts and culture experiences, learning experiences, and character shapers that we think children and young people in Rotherham should have access to. We want to share our ideas with you, and hope that you will help us make them happen!



WE *think* THAT  
CHILDREN'S  
IDEAS  
ARE IMPORTANT!

# RULES — FOR — REIMAGINING

Before creating our manifesto, we came up with five ground rules to help us make sure we reimagined Rotherham in the best way possible.

We hope that you would like to reimagine Rotherham too! It's really easy to do: all you need to do is stick to these five rules:

**1**  
Be  
respectful



**2**  
Make sure everyone  
has a say



3.  
Use teamwork  
and work together



4.  
Explain ideas: experts  
must share their  
knowledge and expertise



5.  
Everyone should have access to  
a flying car that runs on clouds

# ARTS & CULTURE EXPERIENCES

“ There should be a children’s gallery where you can see children’s work. In the gallery you could doodle and it would be displayed in the doodle hall. You could also talk to the artists and tell them your ideas. ”

“ We would like a Children’s Science Museum, which would develop children’s education because it would be very interactive. ”

“We would like to have a cinema in Rotherham because then we would be able to spend more time with family and friends. Watching films also makes you more imaginative!”

“We would like there to be festivities based on other people’s religions, cultures and traditions.”

“We would like more artwork around Rotherham, such as graffiti and street art, because it makes Rotherham look nicer.”

“We think there should be an arts centre where anyone can go to learn different things, such as singing, acting, dancing, or painting. There would be regular performances at the arts centre, and they would be accessible to everybody.”

# ARTS & CULTURE EXPERIENCES

Draw a doodle to be displayed in the Doodle Hall of the Children's Gallery on the page below:

Write a sign to be displayed next to your doodle. The sign should explain what your doodle is of, and any meaning behind it:

“

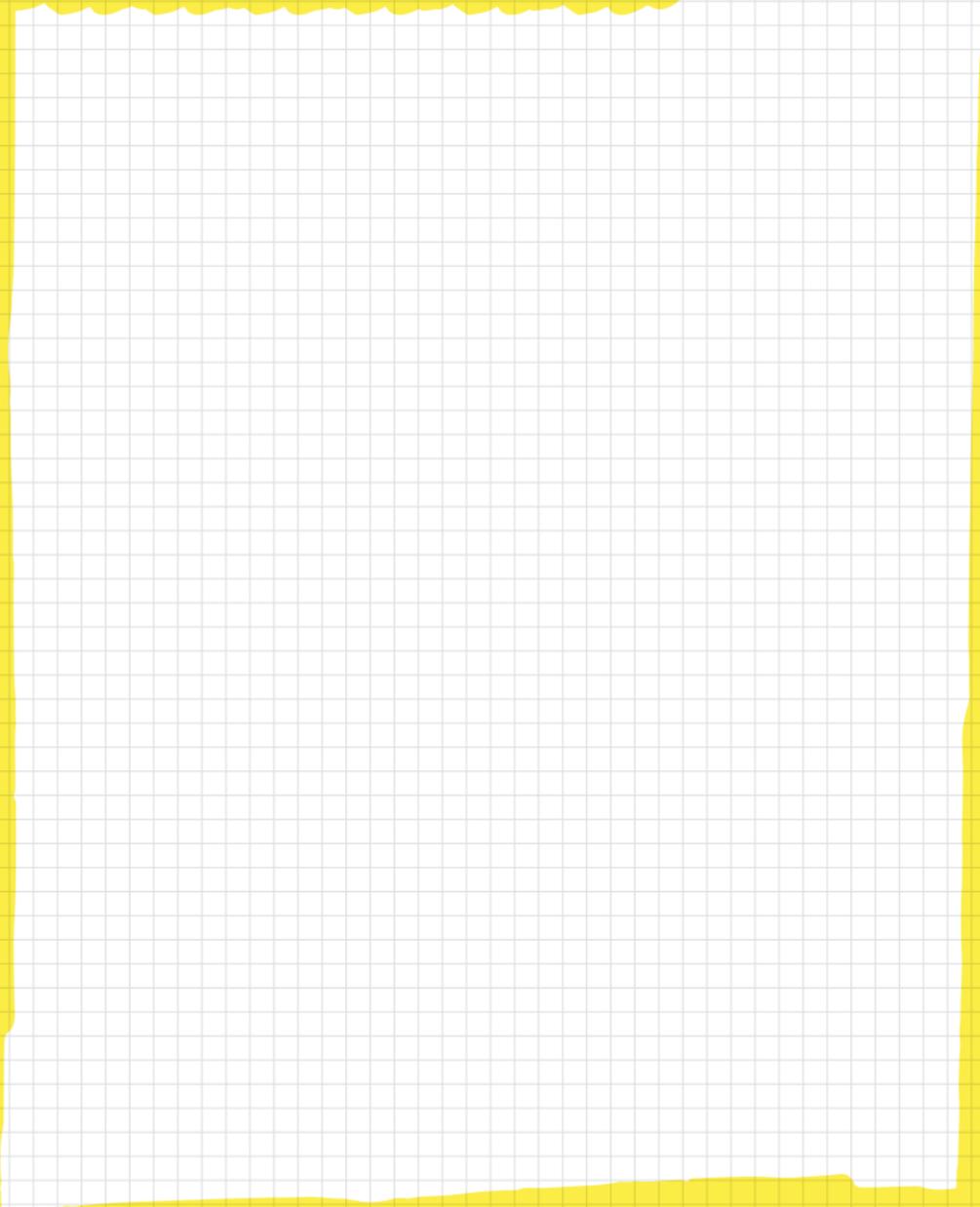
”

Artist's name:

Artist's age:

Take a picture of your doodle, and upload it to the Embassy for Reimagining Rotherham website!

Draw a doodle to be displayed in the  
Doodle Hall of the Children's Gallery:



# ARTS & CULTURE EXPERIENCES

What arts and culture experience had the biggest impact on you when you were young?

Write about it below here:

“



# LEARNING EXPERIENCES

“ We think learning should be fun, because if kids aren't enjoying school they won't want to learn anything! ”

“ We should have more choice about what lessons we do in school. For example, if you want to do a particular job you can take lessons related to it. ”

“ We think that kids should have to go to school for a minimum amount of time (less time for younger children, more time for older children), but have the option of going to school for extra lessons if they want. ”

“We think schools should be open in the school holidays so kids can use the playing fields and gym, and can carry on their education if there are extra lessons.”

“We think there should be limited class sizes, as it aids concentration.”

“We think there should be lessons for teachers, such as on how to better communicate with children.”

“We think there are some extra things we should be taught in school:

- Cooking, as it promotes independence and keeps people healthy.
- Fun, optional drama classes, because it makes you more confident.
- First aid, as it is an important skill needed for emergencies.
- For Years 10 and 11 there should be lessons in school where you can learn important skills for life (i.e. how to buy a house, basic DIY, and looking after your finances).”

# LEARNING EXPERIENCES

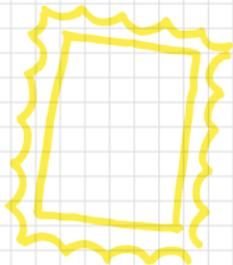
Write a letter to your future self.

Give them a piece of advice, or share something important that you've learned and would like to remember in the future.

You could also ask them a question!

DEAR FUTURE SELF...

“





# CHARACTER SHAPERS

“Rotherham should have a communal garden, because gardening teaches people to respect and look after the world, and treat it with greater importance. It is also therapeutic and relaxing.”

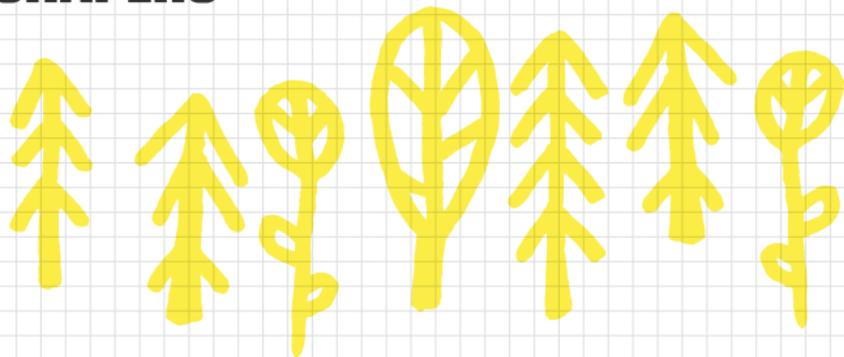
“There should be free flying cars so everyone can go on holiday, because then you can learn about other countries and make memories with the people you go with.”

“We would give people a free swimming centre, because you get to splash in the water. The swimming centre would be funded by donations, and people who can give more would subsidise those who are unable to donate.”

“Everyone should be able to go walking in the woods, because it helps you appreciate nature, become aware of your surroundings, and have fun.”

“We would let every kid do outdoor pursuits as everyone should get to do new experiences.”

# CHARACTER SHAPERS



Location of tree:

Description of what the tree looks like:

What is the tree's favourite food?:

What are the tree's pet hates?:

What is the tree's favourite thing about Rotherham?

Grab a crayon or some charcoal,  
find your favourite tree in Rotherham,  
and do a rubbing of its bark:

# THE REIMAGINED ROTHERHAM TOWN PLAN

Write about your favourite place in Rotherham,  
explaining why it's important to you:

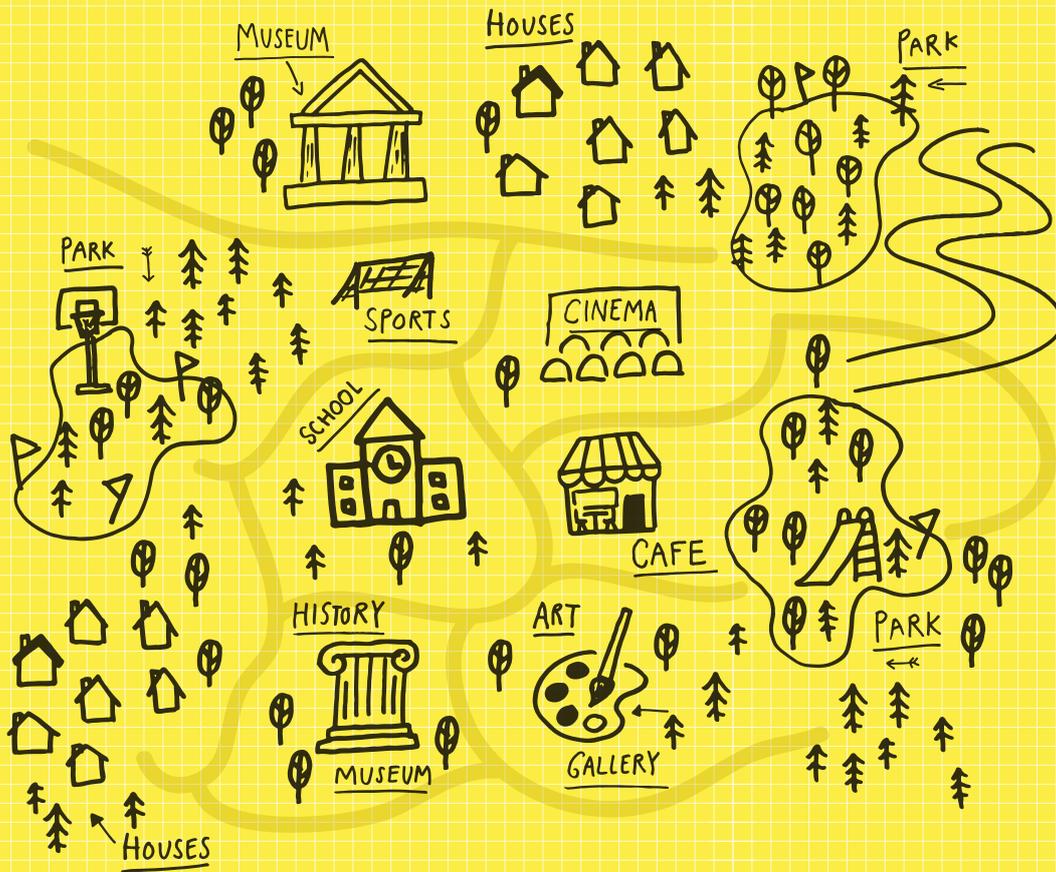
# TOWN PLAN



# THE REIMAGINED ROTHERHAM TOWN PLAN



# THE REIMAGINED ROTHERHAM TOWN PLAN



## PARK

Everyone should be able to go to the park to relax or get active.

## ART

An arts centre would show off the town's talent, as well as how cultural Rotherham is.

## MUSEUM

Museums help people learn about things in an enjoyable way.

## CINEMA

Watching films helps you be more imaginative!

## CAFE

We'd like a cafe where people can gain work experience.

# YOUR REIMAGINED ROTHERHAM

We've told you about our manifesto – and now we want to hear your ideas! What do you think should happen in Rotherham's future? Tell us here. Just make sure you stick to the Rules for Reimagining!

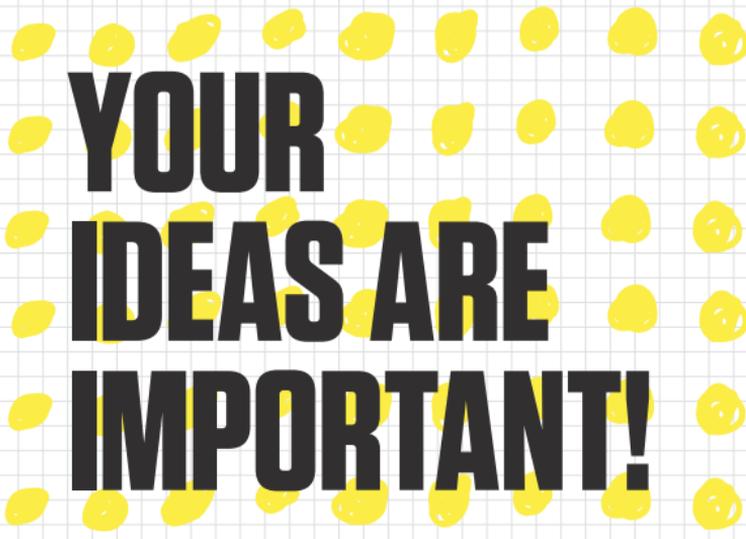
I think that...

This would be a good thing because...

Name:

For my tea last night I ate:

I think the meaning of life is:

A decorative border of yellow paint splatters surrounds the main text.

# YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT!

We want to know what you think about our manifesto, and how you would like to reimagine Rotherham yourself.

Please share your ideas with us on the Embassy for Reimagining Rotherham website:



[www.ReimagineRotherham.org](http://www.ReimagineRotherham.org)

Together, we can  
reimagine our town!



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**REIMAGINING**  
Rotherham

**The Embassy for Reimagining Rotherham (ERR)** started life in August 2017, when a group of 30 local children and young people took part in an intensive three week writing programme.

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During this time the young people drafted a manifesto for their town's future, before taking over a vacant shop in the centre of Rotherham and turning it into the Embassy for Reimagining Rotherham. From here they consulted with local people about their manifesto, before presenting their ideas to a special group of invited guests.

The young people are now working hard to make their ideas a reality – and the manifesto you're holding is part of this!



The ERR project is brought to you by **Grimm & Co**, a writing charity for children and young people aged 7 – 18. Grimm & Co changes lives one story at a time by running innovative workshops that champion the writer in every child.

Grimm & Co gratefully acknowledges the support of **Arts Council England**, **Julie Kenny** CBE DL & Commissioner to Rotherham, the **University of Sheffield**, **IVE**, **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council**, and **Big Lottery** for this project.

Many thanks to **Side By Side**, who designed the beautiful publication you're holding (as well as all of ERR's branding), to our volunteers, and most of all to the children and young people for their bravery, insight, and creativity.

**[www.grimmandco.co.uk](http://www.grimmandco.co.uk)**  
**[info@grimmandco.co.uk](mailto:info@grimmandco.co.uk)**



