

FACTSHEET: CHARITY SHOP

A Charity Shop is a special shop that sells new and used items to raise money for the charity they represent. The shop has to be clear about which charity it supports e.g. Mind, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK. It has to be a properly registered and legal charity.



This is so we don't confuse it with a 'second hand shop' which sells used items to make money - but the money goes to the shop owner and not to a good cause!

The shop is often staffed by volunteers. This means they work for no money because they also want to help the charity. The volunteers might get some help with their bus fare to get to the shop to work. Volunteers are fantastic, kind people who give their valuable time to help others.

The shop gets its items from people who give or 'donate' their old things to the shop for free so the shop can sell them. They like to have nice things and clean clothes so they are ready to sell. Sometimes people put rubbish or even smelly nappies into the bag of things they donate - this isn't very nice for the volunteers and they have to throw away the broken things or things that are too old and smelly to sell.

Remember - a charity shop is not a dustbin!

If you donate some things to a charity shop make sure they are clean and folded nicely and that any toys or games are complete and working okay. This will really help the volunteers.

Charity shops need to be careful about selling electrical items because they could be very dangerous if they are not working properly. They have to have these items tested to check they are safe before they sell them.

Don't donate faulty or broken electrical items to charity shops, they cannot afford to fix them and they can't sell them.

The money from the shop goes to the charity to help them do the good work they do. It is all written down and proper records, called accounts, are sent to the Government Department called Revenue, each year. Revenue will help the charity by letting them pay less tax than normal shops.