

# A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

**WELSH  
YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT**

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# **WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

**IN 2018, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES WILL ESTABLISH  
A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT.**

It will give Wales' young people between 11 and 18 a completely new way to make themselves heard at a national level. It will empower them to raise awareness of, and debate the issues important to young people in Wales.

By participating in issue based politics, children and young people will get to experience first-hand how politics works and the direct effect it can have on their lives.

More information about the Welsh Youth Parliament can be found on the website, **[www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales)**.

# **WHAT WILL THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT LOOK LIKE?**

**LIKE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES, THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT WILL BE MADE UP OF 60 MEMBERS.**

40 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be elected by a 'First Past the Post' system, returning one young person for each electoral constituency in Wales.

Any young person that lives in, or receives their education in Wales, between the ages of 11 up to 18 will be able to stand as a candidate for one of the 40 constituency seats.

The remaining 20 seats will be elected by partner organisations to ensure the representation of diverse groups of young people.

All 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will have equal status, with the same role and responsibilities in the Parliament.

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER?

**WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS WILL BE PART OF A GROUP OF 60 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 AND UP TO THE AGE OF 18 ACROSS WALES.**

Welsh Youth Parliament Members will listen to young people in Wales and discuss with them what the Welsh Youth Parliament is working on. They'll identify, raise awareness of and debate issues that are important to young people across Wales.

As a Member of the Welsh Youth Parliament, young people will:

- ◆ Decide and lead on work of importance to them.
- ◆ Support other Welsh Youth Parliament Members.
- ◆ Engage with Assembly Members about the work of the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- ◆ Contribute to the work of National Assembly committees.
- ◆ Help children and young people understand how the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Youth Parliament work, and the impact they have on the lives of people in Wales.
- ◆ Meet together as a whole Welsh Youth Parliament three times over the two-year term.
- ◆ Meet at regional level and at engagement events every 2-3 months.
- ◆ Shape the future of the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- ◆ Develop and increase the representation of young people in a positive way.

# REPRESENTING THE FUTURE OF WALES

**WALES IS BROKEN DOWN INTO 40 SMALLER AREAS CALLED CONSTITUENCIES. YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO NOMINATE THEMSELVES TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO REPRESENT THESE CONSTITUENCIES.**

These constituencies are arranged into four regions of Wales. Young people will regularly meet and work with other Welsh Youth Parliament Members from their local region.

## **NORTH WALES:**

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1. Ynys Môn
2. Arfon
3. Aberconwy
4. Clwyd West
5. Vale of Clwyd
6. Delyn
7. Alyn and Deeside
8. Wrexham
9. Clwyd South
10. Dwyfor Meirionydd
11. Montgomeryshire

## **MID WALES:**

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12. Ceredigion
13. Brecon and Radnorshire
14. Preseli Pembrokeshire
15. Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
16. Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
17. Llanelli



### SOUTH-WEST WALES:

- 18. Gower
- 19. Swansea West
- 20. Swansea East
- 21. Neath
- 22. Aberavon
- 23. Ogmore
- 24. Bridgend
- 25. Rhondda
- 26. Cynon Valley
- 27. Pontypridd
- 28. Vale of Glamorgan

### SOUTH-EAST WALES:

- 29. Cardiff West
- 30. Cardiff North
- 31. Cardiff Central
- 32. Cardiff South and Penarth
- 33. Merthyr and Rhymney
- 34. Blaenau Gwent
- 35. Torfaen
- 36. Monmouth
- 37. Caerphilly
- 38. Islwyn
- 39. Newport West
- 40. Newport East

# **WHAT SUPPORT CAN WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS EXPECT FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES?**

## **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES WILL SUPPORT ALL WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:**

- ◆ Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be allocated a member of staff from the National Assembly for Wales during their time at the Welsh Youth Parliament. This member of staff will provide support and guidance, and will be a contact point for any help or advice about the Welsh Youth Parliament. They will also give Welsh Youth Parliament Members regular updates and provide information about upcoming meetings and events.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide information for the parents or guardians of Welsh Youth Parliament Members about their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide support and information for schools and youth organisations about their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament.



- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will cover any costs Welsh Youth Parliament Members incur related to their work with the Welsh Youth Parliament, such as:
  - Authorised travel;
  - Accommodation;
  - Food;
  - The cost of attending activities arranged by the National Assembly for Wales.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide transport options for Welsh Youth Parliament events arranged by the National Assembly.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide relevant and useful training on what the National Assembly is.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide clear guidance and training on policies which all Welsh Youth Parliament Members will need to follow, including: social media, equal opportunities, child protection and safeguarding.
- ◆ Welsh Youth Parliament Members will receive full training and guidance on any work they are asked to undertake for the Welsh Youth Parliament including: research training, public speaking, debating skills, using social media, safeguarding and anything else appropriate.
- ◆ The National Assembly for Wales will provide support to Welsh Youth Parliament Members for their own personal development and development of their role in the Welsh Youth Parliament to help them do the best they can.

# **RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER**

**BEING A WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBER IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 AND UP TO 18 ALL OVER WALES.**

The National Assembly for Wales will expect all Welsh Youth Parliament Members to follow and uphold the Code of Conduct. If Welsh Youth Parliament Members do not follow the Code of Conduct, there will be a fair investigation into their behaviour and any allegations made before deciding on what consequences there will be.

A detailed version of the Code of Conduct will be issued to all Welsh Youth Parliament Members once elected.

Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be responsible for:

- ◆ Attending all official Welsh Youth Parliament meetings;
- ◆ Reporting any concerns or issues to appropriate staff members;
- ◆ Keeping National Assembly for Wales staff updated about any changes to personal information and circumstances;
- ◆ Respecting the Welsh Language;
- ◆ Using social media appropriately and within the National Assembly for Wales guidelines;
- ◆ Respecting the political impartiality of the Welsh Youth Parliament;
- ◆ Respecting other Welsh Youth Parliament Members, National Assembly for Wales staff, Assembly Members and any external groups/individuals you come into contact with;
- ◆ Abiding by the law at all times and not carrying out any unlawful activities whilst participating in Welsh Youth Parliament business;
- ◆ Behaving in a way which does not bring the National Assembly for Wales into disrepute.



# ***WHAT COMMITMENT IS EXPECTED FROM YOUNG PEOPLE?***

***EVERY TERM OF THE WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT LASTS FOR TWO YEARS – SO YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES FOR TWO YEARS.***

All 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will meet as a whole group three times during their two-year term.

The dates for these meetings are:

- ◆ 22 – 24 February 2019
- ◆ 25 – 27 October 2019
- ◆ 13 – 15 November 2020

In between, they will work in their regional areas, meeting with and discussing issues with other local Welsh Youth Parliament Members.

Welsh Youth Parliament Members will work with other young people in the area and go to events organised at times and dates that suit all Welsh Youth Parliament Members from that region.

# CAN MY CHILD STAND FOR ELECTION?

**YES! ANY YOUNG PERSON LIVING IN OR RECEIVING THEIR EDUCATION IN WALES CAN NOMINATE THEMSELVES AS A CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THE 40 CONSTITUENCY SEATS. HOWEVER, THEY WILL NEED TO BE AGED AT LEAST 11- AND BE NO OLDER THAN 17 ON THE LAST DAY OF THE ELECTION (25 NOVEMBER 2018).**

Those young people who are eligible to stand at the election are able to stand as a candidate for one of the 40 constituency seats, and as one of the young people returned by an official partner organisation at the same time. If a young person gains the most amount of votes for one of the 40 constituency seats, and is the preferred candidate returned by an official partner organisation, the choice will lie with the young person as to which seat they choose to occupy. The relinquished seat will either be allocated to the young person who obtained the second highest number of votes in that constituency, or to the official partner organisation who will then return another young person.

For the constituency seat, the young person will need to complete an application form at [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales). Applications open on 3 September 2018 and close on 30 September 2018. Young people will NOT be able to apply after this date and NO exceptions will be made.

The form will take about 15 minutes to complete. Young people will need to read the introduction and if they are under the age of 16, they will have to confirm they have parental/guardian permission to apply.

Young people will need to provide the following information to apply:

- ◆ Name;
- ◆ Address and post code;
- ◆ Email Address;
- ◆ Date of birth;
- ◆ Equality form.

Young people will need to provide a short biography about themselves. This should be no longer than 200 words. It should cover why they would be a good Welsh Youth Parliament Member and the three issues that are most important to them. The issues need to be things devolved to Wales. For example health, Welsh language, youth provisions, the environment etc. More information about what is devolved to Wales can be found on the National Assembly website

**[www.assembly.wales/powers](http://www.assembly.wales/powers)**.

Once young people have successfully completed their online application form and their information has been verified, they will then be sent an Information Pack. This will tell them everything they need to know about standing for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament.

The remaining 20 seats will be returned by partner organisations.

# **PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

**20 OF THE 60 WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT MEMBERS WILL BE RETURNED BY PARTNER ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE THE REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.**

Any organisation, of any size, from any part of Wales can apply to become a partner organisation.

Organisations wanting to become an official Welsh Youth Parliament partner will need to apply in writing by 2 July, 2018, and will be considered against a set criteria.

Guidance on becoming a Welsh Youth Parliament partner organisation and an application form can be found at [\*\*www.youthparliament.wales\*\*](http://www.youthparliament.wales).



# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD REGISTER TO VOTE?

## **PARENTS AND GUARDIANS CAN HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE BY:**

Supporting and encouraging young people aged 11-18 to go on [www.youthparliament.wales](http://www.youthparliament.wales). Voter registration opens on 28 May 2018 and closes 16 November 2018. Young people will need to provide the following information to apply:

- ◆ Name;
- ◆ Post code (home or school);
- ◆ Email address;
- ◆ Date of birth.

Use Welsh Youth Parliament promotional materials to raise awareness. Parents and guardians can contact staff from the National Assembly for Wales for information and materials as required.

