

# Kent Youth County Council (KYCC)

## Frequently asked questions

### What does KYCC do?

KYCC campaigns on the issues important to young people in Kent. During the elections young people also have the opportunity to vote for 1 issue, which they feel is most important to young people, the top 3 issues will become KYCC Campaigns this year along with a campaign entitled developing emotional resilience.

For more information on what we do and have achieved see our website at [www.kent.gov.uk/kycc](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycc)

Training is provided to KYCC members to learn about campaigning & lobbying, understanding decision making both in Kent and nationally, presentation skills and using the internet safely.

KYCC meet once a month, on a Saturday at County Hall, Maidstone. Travel costs for any young person travelling to and from meetings either by public transport or parent's mileage can be reimbursed.

### How do I register my school / youth organisation as a polling station?

Just go to our website and complete an online registration form on the election page at [www.kent.gov.uk/kycelections](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycelections) stating whether you want to vote online or by paper ballots and we will send you more information and resources.

### What are the best ways to run elections in schools?

There are lots of different ways to run the election process, but we have found the biggest turnout comes from schools that run the elections in one of the following ways:

- Ballot papers are given out to young people during form time in the register, completed and returned in the register to the lead teacher.
- School councils / 6<sup>th</sup> form classes are given the elections as a project to run: supporting candidates within the school to campaign and having a set voting day(s) for young people to go to a polling room, so the process is more similar to local / general elections.
- Online during ICT lessons or another appropriate class time, giving students time during class to log on, read through the manifestos and make their decision on who to vote for.

*Don't forget having at least 1 Candidate registered from your school / youth project helps to get others involved in voting!*

### When will the ballots be delivered & collected?

If you register as a polling station you will receive manifesto posters and ballots between **7th and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. Voting is either via paper ballots or online. Ballot papers will be delivered in a clearly labelled pack to your school reception and then collected from your school on **28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> November**, please ensure all ballots are ready for collection from your reception from 9am on Monday morning.

### Who can take part in KYCC?

Any young person aged 11 – 18 years who lives or goes to school / college or who works in Kent can put themselves forward as a candidate for the elections or can vote in the elections. For schools this is often a great opportunity for younger students to be involved in a countywide project and for your school to be represented.

## How does a young person register to be a candidate?

Just go to our website and complete an online registration form on the elections page at [www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections)

A young person can register as a district or community candidate. District candidates are the majority of applicants and register to stand in the district that they wish to be voted for i.e. in either the district that they attend school / college or live in.

Community candidates represent the views and opinions of minority groups in the community, if a young person is part of a minority group and wishes to stand as a community candidate they can register for this online too. Examples of community seats include home educated young people, disabled people, young carers, young people in care or international students.

## What can young people get out of it?

There are loads of opportunities and experiences young people can gain by being part of KYCC including:

- making new friends
- gaining a sense of achievement
- taking an active role in their community
- making a difference to issues for young people
- opportunity to get involved nationally with **UK Youth Parliament** & British Youth Council
- completing externally recognised qualifications such as ASDAN
- young people can also use their service with KYCC as part of a DofE award.

## How can young people find out about their district candidates and vote?

All candidate written manifestoes & information on issues will be available online at [www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections) during the election fortnight from **Monday 14th — Sunday 27th November** and full manifesto posters will be sent to your school to display for the election fortnight.

Young People can vote by paper ballots in schools and youth clubs or online at [www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycc elections) The ballot papers are double sided as young people should vote for **1 candidate** and **1 issue**. The top 4 Candidates will then be elected as Members and the top 3 issues will become KYCC Campaigns.

## Is there a more accessible version of the ballot?

We can create Widgit versions of all manifestoes for your area. If you would like copies please email [kycc@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kycc@kent.gov.uk) or state this on your online form when registering as a polling station.

## When will the results be announced?

Results will be announced online at midday on **4th December**. Candidates will also receive a letter in the post with more information. This first meeting for newly elected members is **Saturday 10th December**.

## How do I get in contact with KYCC?

Email: [kycc@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kycc@kent.gov.uk)

Website: [www.kent.gov.uk/kycc](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kycc)