Reflection Session - Guidance Note

Introduction

The Reflection Session is a core feature of the YPI Scotland support structure. It supports continuous improvement and helps schools achieve maximum value from YPI, therefore it is our expectation that each participating school completes this as soon as possible after their YPI Final Showcase.

Your YPI Programme Officer will work with you to explore the best time, fit, attendees, and structure for the session depending on your delivery model and timeline. This can be either online or in person.

Purpose of the Reflection Session

The Reflection Session is delivered as part of The Wood Foundation's commitment to continuous learning and improvement, in line with the GTCS Professional Standards. It provides the opportunity to engage in:

- Reflection, leadership of learning, and collaborative practice to enhance the learning and community opportunities offered through YPI.
- Practitioner enquiry for YPI delivery teams to think critically, and to question educational beliefs, assumptions and practices to support enriched practice and learning outcomes.

Focus, Timing, and Audience

The focus of the session is wholly flexible and bespoke to your school's context. Normally, reflection yields best results when held timely after the final, however it can take place at any time during the school year depending on the best place and fit for you, and with the team members deemed most appropriate for the discussion. For example, alongside the YPI Lead Teacher, SLT link, and the delivery team, it may be appropriate for you to have other representatives including wider school staff, DYW staff, careers advisors, or other external partners. **Including students at the meeting can also be beneficial or gather their reflections beforehand to share at the meeting to incorporate youth voice into your YPI programme.**

Potential Prompts and Inspiration

- What are your aims and objectives for YPI?
- How does YPI align with your skills framework, improvement priorities, and curricular activity?
  Consider: IDL opportunities; faculty/school improvement plans; skills profiling/DYW, and accreditation.
- What do you think are the key learning experiences that will benefit students?
- How can you support students to deliver creative and impactful presentations?
- How can you support students to engage meaningfully with their charities and establish robust, specific business cases for their presentations?

The following page shares further consideration and inspiration to support potential areas of discussion at the Reflection Session.

Your Programme Officer will capture the discussion, noting what is working well, aspirations for the programme, and any goals that were identified and agreed upon. This will be shared with the school following the meeting.

To discuss the content, structure, or timing of your Reflection session, please contact your YPI Programme Officer in the first instance or email ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk.

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Getting the most from your YPI Programme

Curricular embedding

The place and fit of YPI will be unique to your school context, priorities, and approach.

- How does the current delivery model align with curricular priorities both within the department and across the school?
- Could learning be enriched by collaborating with other departments? Could YPI be delivered through an interdisciplinary approach?

Added value opportunities

- YPI can be aligned with award and accreditation frameworks relating to leadership, skills, and values. See our **Strategic Guide** for ideas and inspiration.
- Students who don't make the YPI final can remain engaged in the following ways:
  - Event support for the final
  - Providing feedback to finalist teams
  - Capturing learning for display at the final (e.g., social issue or charity poster display).

CASE STUDY – CLICK HERE: Hear how Beeslack Academy aligns YPI with the SQA Religion, Beliefs and Values Award.

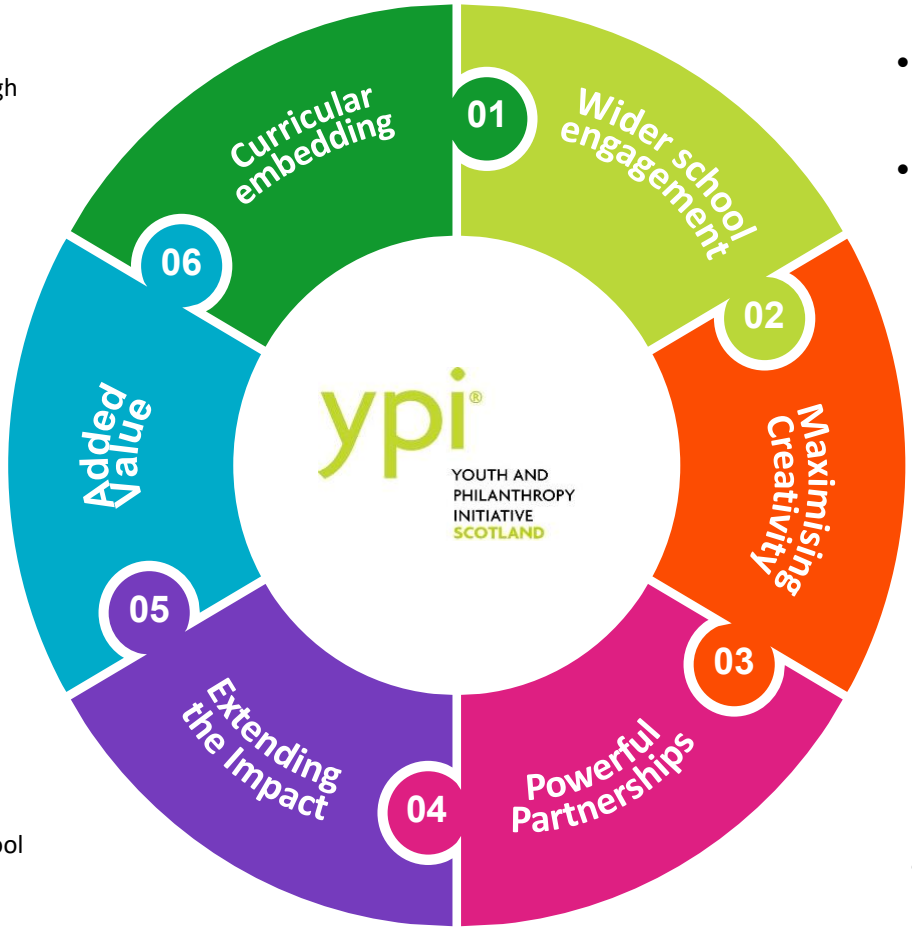
Extending the impact

What does success through YPI mean to you as a school and how is this measured? Consider the examples of lasting impact below. How might these be realised?

- Charity partnerships that begin within YPI and extend to wider school relationships.
- Leadership opportunities for YPI alumni.
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Exploration of third sector career opportunities.
- Enhancing student-led learning opportunities.

CASE STUDY – CLICK HERE: Hear how Tain Royal Academy has embedded YPI within its curriculum.

CASE STUDY – CLICK HERE: Hear how YPI is aligned to school values at Craigroyston High School.



CASE STUDY – CLICK HERE St Andrew's & St Bride's Academy students share how YPI is supporting leadership opportunities.

CASE STUDY – CLICK HERE: QTS and CalMac share the value of engaging with mentoring opportunities through YPI.

Wider school engagement

YPI offers an opportunity to come together as a whole-school community.

YPI can align with your skills pipeline, school values, and educational priorities. How could this be achieved, understood, and communicated?

- Wider school staff can contribute to the process and legacy of YPI. This may include mentoring and judging or supporting routes into volunteering.
- SLT involvement in planning, evaluation, and development is crucial to realise the strategic potential and maximise the positive impact on students and the community.
- How does YPI embed within a progressive framework focused on community engagement or skills?

Maximising creativity

YPI is an opportunity for all students to excel in their own way, utilising creative skills.

- There has been an acceleration of digital skills development for students and teachers. How can these be further developed and showcased?
- Modelling a variety of creative approaches during the YPI process and empowering students to showcase their own creative platforms will enhance the outputs.
- Are there wider school staff, external partners, or resources that could support?

CLICK HERE to visit the YPI Vimeo page for inspiration.

Powerful partnerships

- Partnerships that could add value to the YPI process include:
  - Business partners and external mentors
  - DYW Coordinators
  - Careers advisors
  - School support staff
- How can your third sector partnerships be developed to strengthen the YPI experience and legacy?

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YPI Reflection Session – Priorities and Next Steps

School Name: Date:

Programme Officer: Attendees:

What is working well…	Even better if…

Goals

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