

Some schools choose to host a charity fair as part of their YPI delivery. This event forms part of the research process which helps pupils shortlist their chosen charities.

Charity fairs offer a great opportunity for pupils to speak to a number of charities representing local social issues before deciding which charity to support.

Pupils are not restricted to choosing from the charities in attendance.

These events are bespoke to each school – we would encourage you to approach schools to learn more about their preferred format. Some schools extend the invite to other year groups to raise further awareness.

We see some fantastic networking between charities at these events too – consider inviting charities along half an hour early to network. Senior pupils can help organise a charity fair – some young people previously received Travel and Tourism, Hospitality and Leadership awards for their efforts.

Click [here](#) to see one school's innovative approach to preparing for their event.

Things to consider when organising a charity fair:

IN ADVANCE

- Send out invitations, explain the format of the fair, how long the event is expected to last, share the judging criteria and explain how this will form the basis for student questions.
- Explain that a charity fair is part of the YPI research stage and pupils will be selecting their charities following the event – encourage charities to invite further engagement from pupils via virtual or in person meetings. Please note that a charity fair contact should not be seen as meaningful engagement with the charity and any further engagement should be in line with the schools and charities own safeguarding procedures.
- Prepare pupils for the event – what questions should they ask, and how will they collate their information?

ON THE DAY

- There are many format options. Some schools choose to space each charity stall in the assembly hall with the whole year group coming at once. Other schools prefer to split the participating year into smaller groups – perhaps 4 groups over 2 periods would work well. Alternatively, some schools ask charities to rotate around classes and spend 10 minutes talking to each class. You could also host a Q&A panel session or a speed dating format.

FOLLOW UP

- Share charity contact details with your DYW coordinator and wider school community to foster ongoing partnership opportunities.
- Share photos on social media.
- Write about the charity fair in your newsletter.
- Consider a YPI section on your school website with links to all supporting charities.