

YPI Scotland

Leading YPI in your school

2023/24 edition



 The Wood Foundation

Operational Manager
and Principal Funder
of YPI in Scotland

 ypiscotland.org.uk

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This resource provides detailed guidance to enable you to realise the full potential of YPI for your students, including advice, support, and resources. Further programme materials and inspiration can be found at:

www.ypiscotland.org.uk



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Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Scotland

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a range of skills.

YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students through of teamwork, research, and competition. YPI engages a full year group of students, developing skills and confidence through a contextualised learning experience. The programme raises awareness of social issues and local charities and is a vital means of devolved, locally driven grant-making. YPI is managed and principally funded by The Wood Foundation. A dedicated team works in partnership with all participating schools to fully realise the opportunity for their settings.



280

schools
delivering YPI



£6.8M

has been granted to
charities across
Scotland



310,000

students engaged in
YPI

YPI support and facilitation structure

YPI is a fully resourced programme with a facilitated support model.

We work in partnership with schools and practitioners, empowering them to explore, develop, and communicate the strategic rationale that underpins their delivery of YPI. Schools with a clear vision, ambition, and buy-in undoubtedly provide the most effective and impactful experiences for their learners and, by extension, their wider school community.

Key features of the support structure are:

- **Programme planning session** – Dedicated time and space to plan for the current academic year. This involves the school's YPI Lead Teacher, a representative from the Senior Leadership Team, and other delivery colleagues.
- **YPI launch** – Your Programme Officer will work with you to explore the best structure and approach to deliver an impactful YPI launch. This may include inputs from the Programme Officer, YPI alumni, previously engaged charities, and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- **Facilitation of YPI Final Showcase** – Your Programme Officer will support the YPI Final Showcase by delivering a judges' briefing and facilitating the judging process.
- **Reflection session** – This session is designed to provide the space for reflection, learning, and goal setting for the next academic year. This typically happens shortly after the YPI Final Showcase. It is an opportunity to consider areas such as creativity, partnership working, and legacy.

Setting up for success on your YPI journey



Deliver an impactful programme

Your YPI Programme Officer will support discussions on how you can deliver an impactful student launch using our [launch resources](#), and programme.

Our [Leading YPI in your school](#) resource shares information and inspiration to get the most from YPI.

7

Explore our video case studies to hear how other schools are embedding the programme.

Identify delivery model

YPI can be delivered to a singular year group from S2 to S6 through a variety of curricular areas. Consider where it will have greatest impact in your school context. The [YPI Strategic Guide](#) details how YPI aligns with education priorities.

2

1

Meet The Wood Foundation (TWF)

YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. TWF works in partnership with schools to support and enhance the impact of YPI.

TWF would initially meet with a member of senior leadership team (SLT) to discuss expectations, alignment, and curricular fit.

3

Identify a YPI Lead Teacher

The Lead Teacher has a pivotal role managing programme activity within your school, with support from SLT.

See our [Leading YPI in your school](#) resource for more information.

4

Curricular planning & mapping

[YPI's suite](#) of resources is designed to support you to plan and deliver an impactful programme.

They provide an adaptive framework that enables you to develop a programme which is suitable for your context and curricular fit.

6

Engage in the programme planning session

This session is a core feature of the partnership. It provides an opportunity for your YPI Programme Officer, Lead Teacher, delivery team, and SLT link to discuss the place and fit, and plan for programme delivery.

See this [guidance note](#) for more information.

8

Reflection and goal setting

Your Programme Officer will work with you to develop a bespoke session to support development priorities. This will involve a chance for reflection and goal setting. See this [guidance note](#) for inspiration.

5

Submit Participating School Commitment

This important document outlines the partnership expectations and is to be signed and approved by the Head Teacher. It allows TWF to ringfence the resources and grant to your school community.

Visit the Educator Zone for all YPI resources, including:

[YPI delivery resource](#) – Shares clear learning intentions, success criteria, and links to skills.

[Student workbook](#) – An editable document that provides an adaptive framework to develop YPI delivery materials.

YPI is an important part of a school's ethos and culture, providing opportunities to bring school values to life. It develops essential skills for learning, life, and work, and celebrates achievement.

The YPI process is divided into four parts:

- Part one: Understanding social issues and my community
- Part two: Exploring the third sector
- Part three: Charity selection and active research
- Part four: Presentation development and YPI Final Showcase

All supporting resources can be accessed via the YPI Scotland [Educator Zone](#). These include:

Planning for YPI

- **Programme planning session guidance note:** [This resource](#) is to be shared with the Lead Teacher, delivery teachers, and SLT link. It outlines questions to consider when planning for YPI.

Launching YPI

- **Launch resources:** These include a [launch video](#), supporting [practitioner guidance](#), and a [PowerPoint resource](#) to support schools to deliver an exciting and engaging launch to YPI.

Delivering YPI

- **Delivery resource:** This is the [core delivery resource](#) for the programme which includes clear learning intentions, success criteria, links to [metaskills](#), and example content plans.
- **Student workbook and YPI delivery PowerPoint:** These are editable documents which provide an adaptive framework from which schools can develop their YPI delivery materials, ensuring they are fit for each individual context.

The YPI Final Showcase

- **YPI Final Showcase resources:** The [judging pack](#) is to be provided to the judging panel in advance of the YPI Final Showcase, outlining the expectations and criteria against which student teams will be marked. The completion of the [grant request form](#) will be coordinated by the Programme Officer at the end of the event to allow TWF to award its portion of the grant to the winning charity.

Reflection and learning

- **Reflection session guidance note:** [This resource](#) provides examples and questions to support you to consider how to make the most of your YPI programme, maximising the impact for your students, school, and community.

Additional resources include:

- The [Creativity Zone](#) on the YPI Scotland website shares great examples of [creative products](#). [There are many available on our](#) Vimeo and YouTube pages. [LINK](#)
- [A guide to working and volunteering in Scotland's voluntary sector](#) was produced in partnership with SCVO and supports enhanced understanding of the third sector and part two of the YPI process.

YPI delivery timeline

The YPI Lead Teacher is responsible for developing a clear programme timeline, which is to be agreed and shared across the delivery team and with your YPI Programme Officer. The following template supports this planning process.

Part	Programme milestones	Curricular delivery	Cross-curricular links	Date/s
Planning session: with YPI Programme Officer and delivery team.				
Part one: Understanding social issues and my local community (15% programme time commitment)	Student launch			
	Understanding social issues	<i>e.g., Delivery in RMPS, links to values-based education</i>	<i>e.g., PSHE to deliver lessons focused on social issues and community.</i>	<i>e.g., To be completed by 20 September</i>
	Establishing teams			
	Teams to select social issue			
Part two: Exploring the third sector (15% programme time commitment)	Charity research			
	Shortlisting eligible charities			
	Team project planning			
Part three: Charity selection and active research (35% programme time commitment)	Communication planning			
	Charity engagement – initial contact			
	Charity engagement – interview, contact, face-to-face meeting			
	Development of a clear business case			
Part four: Presentation development and YPI Final Showcase (35% programme time commitment)	Presentation development			
	Class / semi finals			
	Presentation refinement and YPI showcase planning			
	YPI Final Showcase			
Post-programme	Plenary activity – focusing on skills development and legacy			
Reflection Session: with YPI Programme Officer, staff, and partners				

Professional learning

YPI has been endorsed by Education Scotland as a programme offering high-quality professional learning and leadership opportunities. The Wood Foundation is a GTCS-accredited provider of professional learning and is committed to promoting critical enquiry and innovation, acknowledging that informed and confident practitioners are essential for enabling young people to succeed in learning, life, and work.



Opportunities include:

- **Structured development discussions:** Through the facilitated support structure, we will work in partnership to empower you to consider how your teaching practice and pedagogy ensure the most impactful programme delivery for your students.
- **Online webinars and case studies:** TWF organises online practice-sharing events, with input from practitioners, students, and partners. These provide forums to be inspired by peers from across the country.
- **Regional and national events, and networks:** These are aimed to support practitioner-led collaboration and development.

Questions to consider:

- What skills do you use throughout the delivery of YPI?
- What do you learn from delivering YPI and how do you reflect upon and capture this?
- Has your school worked with any other schools to share learning regarding the YPI programme?
- Have you/the delivery team attended any YPI organised events? If yes, what did you/they learn at the events?

National partnerships



We work with a range of likeminded partners including:

Young Scot

Young Scot is the national youth information and citizenship charity for 11 to 26-year-olds in Scotland. Young Scot provides young people with information, ideas and opportunities to help them make informed decisions. More than 690,000 young people in Scotland carry the **Young Scot National Entitlement Card**.

Young Scot has a national partnership with YPI which celebrates and recognises the contributions of young people taking part in the YPI process: **2000 points awarded** to all those who have taken part over 12 periods. These points can be exchanged for some great rewards and experiences like work shadowing opportunities, tickets to events and other items to support their personal development.

The **Young Scot Rewards** points codes will be sent via email to the YPI Lead Teacher following their YPI Final Showcase. These can then be distributed to students. Young people can sign to Young Scot Membership by heading to <https://membership.young.scot/home/>. For a guide on signing up watch this [step by step video](#).

Launching YPI

Your Programme Officer will discuss the potential for an impactful launch at your planning session. A multi-stakeholder event enriches the introduction by demonstrating the wide-ranging potential value from YPI, outlining what students can expect from the programme, and challenging them to engage and participate fully. Typically, a launch takes place over 1 period but you may wish to consider delivering an extended and more interactive session, your Programme Officer can support discussions relating to this. Consider the following:

Planning and input

Each school launch event should be creative, interactive, and enjoyable, aligning with the school culture, ethos, and values. Input from a variety of stakeholders, in-person or via case study examples, including your Programme Officer, YPI alumni, charities, and delivery staff, can result in an engaging session. An introduction from the Head Teacher or a member of SLT demonstrates the high regard and importance of the programme to both students and staff. Incorporating alumni and charities' experiences provides students with a deeper understanding of the programme.

Attendance

Delivery teachers should attend the launch to better understand core programme expectations and milestones. Attendance from throughout the school shares the purpose and impact of YPI throughout the community.

Celebration

The student launch event kickstarts the YPI journey. It should excite young people and encourage them to think about the social issues they care about and the difference they could make in their local school community.



Inspiration

School example:

The below images are taken from Alford Academy's YPI Launch. In this interactive session students completed the Diamond 9 exercise outside, providing an innovative platform to reflect and discuss social issues in an engaging way.

- **Consider**
What creative approaches and resources can be used to engage students in the launch and create a sense of excitement and celebration?



Social Issues

YPI focusses on social issues impacting communities. Social issues are “when people in your community face barriers to having everything they need for a healthy and independent life”. For YPI we ask students to evidence an impact upon people within their local society. This means that animal and environmental charities may not be suitable. However, there are examples such as therapy pets where it might be appropriate. If you are unsure about charity eligibility, please contact the [YPI team](#).

Researching charities

YPI provides a framework for young people to better understand their own community, the types of work charities do, and societal reliance on the third sector. That is why YPI places an emphasis on identifying community-based, local charities; charities that are developed as a reaction to the specific needs.

While some small charities have a local profile, they can lack the resource and operational structure of larger charities. Students can be supported to identify local charities by:

- **Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs)** are an excellent source of information on regional charitable activity. Each TSI is unique to its area and supports a network of charitable organisations from the very small to the very large. Engaging with TSIs gives students the opportunity to:
 - Access information about local charities through experienced staff and their local database.
 - Gain a better understanding of the charitable sector in your area.
 - Develop a meaningful partnership for subsequent work and ongoing volunteering.
- **The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** is the independent regulator and registrar for all Scottish charities. The OSCR website is an excellent and up-to-date database. It is a YPI requirement that every charity involved in the programme is OSCR-registered. Visit www.oscr.org.uk.
- **Social media pages.** Some smaller, locally based charities may not have websites or appear on search engines, but they may have social media accounts. Once your students have identified charities, they could be supported to view these in accordance with the school or local authority internet usage policies.

Supporting students’ charity selection

Some well-known charities receive more than 10 requests a term for visits. And although many are keen to engage with all students to raise awareness of their cause, some simply do not have the capacity. We recommend that students spend time considering a few charities and do not quickly settle on the most popular charity, or the first search engine result when researching the social issue. Have your students dig deeper and investigate back-up selections in case their chosen charity is unable to be engaged and support groups.

Charity meetings and visits

The charity visit is a vital stage of the YPI process. Students and charities have told us that this aspect of the programme is the most meaningful and enjoyable part of YPI for them, and many students have described transformative, eye-opening experiences.

Students can interact with their community independently and bring their learning into the 'real world'. Once students realise the tangible impact of their efforts, their motivation to advocate for the charity is strengthened and they will be more likely to see the importance of supporting their local community.

Supporting students' preparations for charity visits

- **Research and preparation** – The research process ignites the spark of interest and personal connection that will support visits and, potentially, future volunteering. Good preparation sets them up for success and to make the most of the limited time they may have to conduct the visit or meeting.
- **Empower students to be independent** – TWF firmly believes in students leading their own learning and empowering independence. Encourage them to consider their capacity and capability to independently visit their charity, drawing on support from peers, friends, and family. Students can consider making these visits outwith school hours, independently, or with parents/guardians. Communicating with parents/guardians about YPI will generate additional support. [See Appendix one: Sample letter to parents.](#)
- **Supported or supervised charity visits** – These have proven to be successful at many schools. This approach relies on an appropriate support structure. Therefore, when considering supported student charity visits it is important that plans are realistic and sustainable. Consider if senior students could support younger years as part of an existing peer support or mentor framework.
- **Charity visits at alternative venues** - If there is no way that students can visit their chosen charity, you may wish to support them to make arrangements for them at an alternate venue (e.g., at school, the community library, local offices etc).



Inspiration

School example:

[This case study](#) shares approaches from Banff and Aboyne Academies and how they support an engaging start to the YPI process and charity engagement, through a community walk and charities fair.

- **Consider**
Could either of these approaches be adapted to your context to empower greater charity engagement throughout YPI?

Charities as partners

Local social service charities are at the heart of YPI's mission to grow compassionate communities. We respect the time and effort of charity employees and volunteers to engage young people with their work, and we want to make sure they are recognised for the extent of the impact they help to create. If a charity contacts you with a concern, please email yipi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk.

Planning for your YPI Final Showcase

Your YPI Final Showcase is the culmination of the programme efforts for the academic year. It is an event that not only serves as a platform for the most passionate and engaged teams to present and secure a substantial grant for a deserving charity, but also a true celebration of all the contributions that your YPI students have made – and can continue to make – to help those in need in your community.

Some considerations to make this an impactful event:

- **Invite a wide audience:** It is a good experience for students in other year groups to attend the YPI Final Showcase as an audience, virtually or in-person. For younger students, it is an opportunity to see YPI in action and inspire them. For older students, it provides ongoing engagement with YPI. We recommend that the minimum audience be the full participating year group of students as part of the programme process. All students should be able to see the programme reach its conclusion for the year.

Alongside students, ensure there is a good SLT presence at the event. Extend the invitation to the wider community including parents/guardians, finalist charities, and special guests such as the local Provost, councillor, police, school chaplain, or parent council. This puts real value on the work of the students and the importance of the event.

- **Support finalist charities:** If time and resources allow, consider raising or delegating existing funds for the runner-up charities. These monies could be raised through student fundraising (e.g., bake sales), parent council, local funding partnerships, or as part of the annual giving strategy.
- **Engage non-finalists:** When a student does not make it to the YPI Final Showcase at their school, it does not have to mean the end of their engagement with YPI. Consider extending the learning opportunities for these students and enriching the event by giving them a role for the day. This could entail:
 - Creating a charity information board or poster competition to coincide with the YPI Final Showcase. This enables all groups to have an output, which is publicly displayed, from their YPI experience. It supports awareness raising for all the social issues and charities that were represented.
 - Involving them in planning and/or hosting the event (e.g., audio-visual set-up, MC, catering).
- **Entertain the audience during intermission:** You may wish to show the [Make a Difference Video](#) during judges' deliberations. You could also organise performances and interactive events such as:
 - Invite the drama club or cast of the school play to perform a scene or improv set.
 - Invite the school band to play a short set.
 - Invite a guest speaker to give a short talk on a relevant social issue.
 - Plan an educational game related to a relevant social issue, or large group activity for the audience.

Here is a preparation checklist, an overview of the resources required, and step-by-step tips for running a smooth and exciting YPI Final Showcase.

YPI Showcase: Preparation checklist

To-do	Complete
1. Choose a date and time which will ideally allow a large audience of students & other guests to attend. Discuss and agree this with your YPI Programme Officer in advance to ensure they are available. Put this date into the school calendar as early as possible.	
2. Book the necessary AV equipment and venue (i.e., school auditorium, city venue, library, or community hall).	
3. Arrange for students, teachers, administrators, staff, community members, finalist charities, and parents/guardians, as well as community guests to attend the YPI Final Showcase. - See Appendix two: YPI Final Showcase invite templates . <i>(If your school expects to have local media representatives at the event, let your YPI Programme Officer know, and refer to the press release template.)</i>	
4. Arrange your judging panel. This should be three to five people, with a mix of external and internal representatives such as School Captains, YPI alumni, teaching staff, Head Teacher, community representatives, local business partner, school chaplain, community learning and development representative, or a member of the parent council.	
5. Think about how to entertain the audience during the judging intermission (15-20 minutes) and appoint a person to oversee this element of the event.	
6. Determine the private room where your judging panel be briefed prior to the event and will deliberate following the presentations.	
7. Decide who will be the master of ceremonies. You might choose students, or the YPI Lead Teacher, or a local activist or philanthropist.	
8. Ensure you have all the resources needed for your YPI Final Showcase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Digital camera / AV equipment ▪ Copies of YPI judging pack for the panel and judging sheets for each group 	
9. Ensure all teams have had a dress rehearsal in the event space. This ensures that any technical problems can be identified and resolved, and it also supports the students to feel more confident on the day!	

How to run a smooth YPI Final Showcase:

On the day of your YPI Final Showcase, the Programme Officer will be on hand to provide support throughout and facilitate the briefing and judging process (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in advance).

NEW for 2023! During the judge's deliberations it is requested that another member of staff is available to take notes using the Finalist Student Feedback Form (Appendix 4). This form will then be given to the YPI Lead Teacher to enable feedback to be shared with the finalist teams. This is being introduced recognising the value in capturing and sharing back feedback that is discussed during the deliberation process.

1. Tech check

- Ensure that all teams have checked any AV, PowerPoint and web links that they will be using during their presentations, and that it is all ready to go on a single USB drive or saved to a desktop.

2. Judging panel

- The Programme Officer will require a quiet room to brief the judging panel.
- Please ensure there is a copy of the judging pack for each judge.
- Provide each judge with sufficient copies of the judging sheet (one per presenting team). This is located within the [judging pack](#).

3. Introducing the YPI Final Showcase (suggested speaking points)

- At the beginning of the event, the master of ceremonies should:
 - a. Introduce themselves.
 - b. Highlight how YPI aligns with the school's culture and ethos.
 - c. Share that everyone is looking forward to learning about the different local charities that students will be advocating on behalf of.
 - d. Make note that the presentations will be evaluated by a panel of judges who will determine which team will receive a £3000 YPI grant for their charity.
 - e. Introduce the judges and guests.*
- The [Make a Difference](#) video also works well after this point, as an introduction.

**Please do not introduce, or otherwise recognise, any attending charity representatives until after the judging has taken place. Doing so could be seen to create bias. Although it is good practice, it is recognised it is not always possible for students to have charity representatives attend the YPI Final Showcase.*

4. Judges' deliberation and entertainment

- When the presentations are complete, invite the judges to the room where they will deliberate. Your YPI Programme Officer will support this process. Entertainment for the audience is a good idea for this intermission. Could the Home Economics department also support refreshments?
- During deliberations positive and constructive feedback will be captured for each of the groups represented in the final. This will be shared with the Lead Teacher to enable them to share this with the groups, supporting their skills development.

5. Once a winner has been chosen

- When the judges have chosen a winner, the name of the winning charity will be written on the YPI presentation cheque.
- Determine who will announce the winning charity. This could be a member of the judging panel or master of ceremonies, a teacher or staff member, or a visiting guest. Encourage judges to provide brief positive comments for all finalist teams.
- Decide who will deliver a thank you speech – this is an opportunity to recognise everyone that made the process possible – YPI Lead Teacher, delivery team, school, community, business, and third sector partners. It also provides the space to highlight that although there is one winner, each and every participant will have played a vital role in raising awareness.
- Your Programme Officer will complete a Grant Request Form.
- Profile your YPI Final Showcase and the work of your YPI students through social media, local press, school website, or community bulletins.
- Take photos of the winning team with the cheque, as well as a few shots of all the finalists together to celebrate their work.



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?

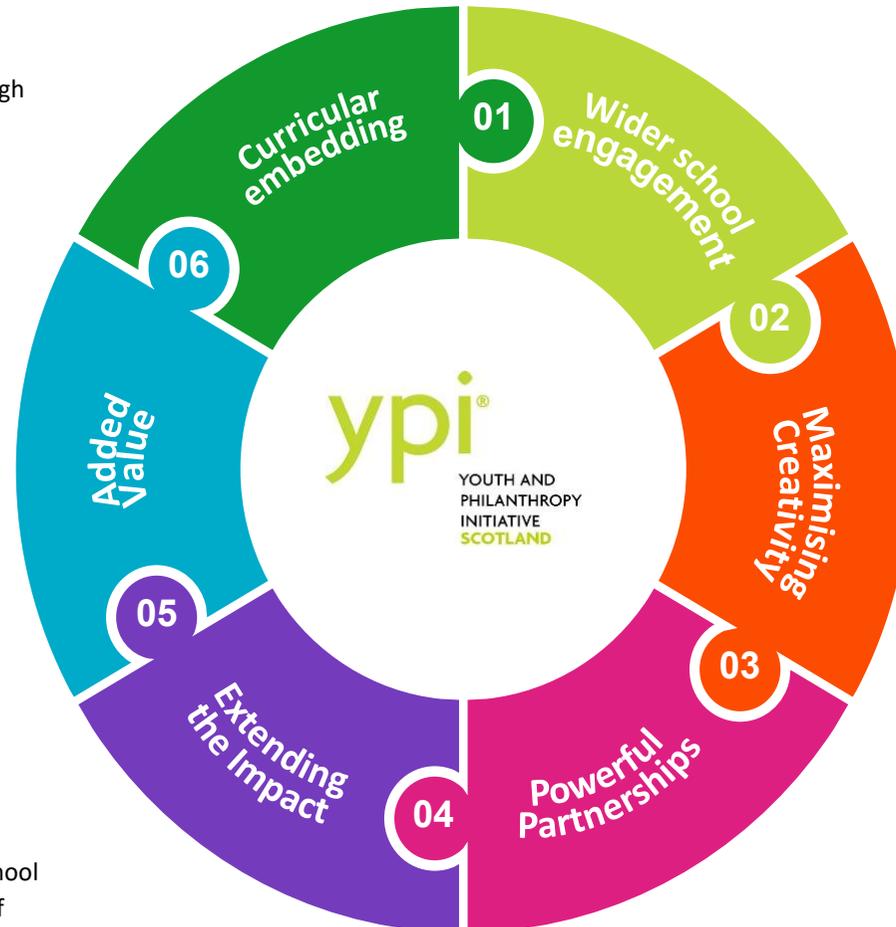
- Charity partnerships that begin within YPI and extend to wider school relationships.
- Leadership opportunities for YPI alumni.
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Exploration of third sector career opportunities.
- Enhancing student-led learning opportunities.

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 Craigmoynton 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.

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, external mentors
 - DYW co-ordinators
 - Careers Advisors
 - School support staff
- How can your third sector partnerships be developed to strengthen the YPI experience and legacy?

Reflection session

The reflection session is a core feature of the YPI support structure. The focus of this bespoke session can include areas such as partnerships, creativity, or legacy, and will be discussed at your planning meeting, supportive of continuous improvement.

We will work with you to explore the best time, fit, attendees, and structure for the session depending upon your delivery model and timeline. Guidance and further details regarding this session can be found in the [Educator Zone](#).

Prior to the session, please consider the ambitions for programme development and how these align with wider school priorities.

Questions to consider:

- 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, 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?

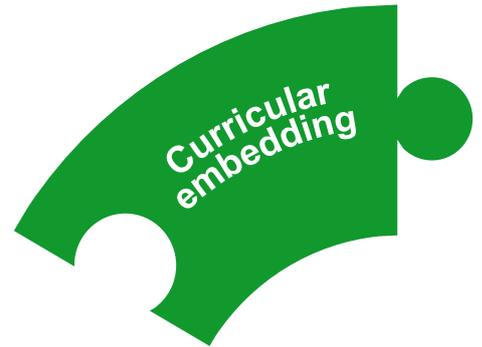
Getting the most from your YPI programme

Curricular embedding

Our [Strategic Guide](#) supports schools to fully realise the potential of the programme by clearly identifying where it aligns with the priorities that the Scottish curriculum is built upon, including HGIOS4, skills agenda and Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), as well as the four core capacities and contexts of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

Within the Strategic Guide, YPI is mapped against relevant E&Os, enabling practitioners to use the respective benchmarks to assess student progress.

When exploring how YPI can be embedded within your school, consider the following:



Learning across the four contexts through

Opportunities for personal achievement

Every team will raise vital awareness for a cause and charity they have chosen within their local community, with one securing a £3000 grant. Work as an integral part of a team, developing key skills for learning, life, and work.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Contextualised learning experience which empowers practitioners and students to plan and apply learning across disciplines, supporting one coherent programme which culminates with a creative product/showcase.

The Curriculum

Empowered students are at the heart of advocacy, decision-making, and awareness raising. YPI aligns with many of the core values that will underpin school life including respect and inclusion.

Students reflect on social issues, the community, and their ability to make a difference utilising the skills developed across a wide range of subjects including business studies, health and wellbeing, humanities, literacy, and numeracy.

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Curriculum areas and subjects

Skills framework

Throughout the [core YPI delivery resources](#), links are made between YPI and meta-skills, as outlined within [Skills 4.0: A skills model to drive Scotland's future](#), and the skills experience tool on My World of Work. By clearly identifying and defining how YPI is aligned to a skills framework, the resources enable learners to understand and articulate their development and how this feeds into their progressive skills journey.

Thought paper

In this [article](#), evidence linked to skills development are explored and aligned with YPI data to highlight the role of the programme in delivering upon the skills agenda.

- **Consider**

How YPI has, or could be, aligned with and mapped against schoolwide priorities focused on skills, citizenship education, literacy, and health and wellbeing?



Inspiration

Getting the most from your YPI programme

Wider school engagement

YPI offers greatest impact across a whole learning community when widely embedded within a school. In recent years, YPI has regularly featured in HMIE reports as a vehicle for evidencing delivery of partnership activity and a wide variety of educational priorities.

Is the profile of YPI high enough across your school for your colleagues to see the potential of the programme to complement their remits?



“YPI is delivered as part of the curriculum. Research into charitable causes is increasing young people’s understanding of wider community needs and national campaigns. Young people are developing their confidence in public speaking, presentation and team working skills. Presentations to whole school year groups on the identified charities is also raising awareness of the local and wider charitable causes.”

Port Glasgow HMIE Report, February 2019

Senior leadership team (SLT) support

SLT support and engagement is vital in ensuring a strategic overview of, and commitment to, the long-term embedding, supporting maximum added value and ensuring that the programme is delivering on curricular objectives and priorities. Additionally, this supports the programme to weather any periods of instability, staff changes, or other challenges.

Consider:

- Does SLT clearly understand and communicate the rationale behind participation in YPI and how this is linked to whole school objectives?
- Is there an SLT representative present at the planning session, launch, and YPI Final Showcase?
- How is change being planned for? Is there a clear succession plan for YPI delivery?
- How are staff beyond the delivery team kept informed of YPI delivery and its purpose and objectives? Are staff encouraged to look for opportunities for co-working across the curriculum?

School testimonial

In [this video](#) Ian Porter from Craigoyston Community High School explains how YPI aligns with school values focused on compassion and community.

- **Consider**
Reflecting on your aims and objectives for the programme, how does YPI align with your school values and priorities?



Getting the most from your YPI programme

Maximising creativity

The development of creativity is essential in preparing learners for the future. Creative learners and thinkers are inquisitive, open-minded, harness imagination, and can solve problems effectively. Students can be supported through YPI to develop such skills, the culmination of this being the delivery of a creative product to showcase.

We want students to use their creativity throughout the YPI process. We want practitioners to ask themselves: how can what we do and achieve through YPI have a lasting impact on our students, school, and community?



This example demonstrates how a real-world context for learning, combined with empowered students can be transformational in terms of learning, engagement, and the wider positive outcomes for both the school and community.

Beautiful Work

Read Ron Berger's explanation of [beautiful work](#) and watch [Austin's Butterfly](#) which highlights the importance of providing the opportunity for feedback and revision. Consider how these relate to YPI.

YPI Vimeo page

There is no single approach to successful YPI presentations. They should be unique, engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable. The [YPI Vimeo page](#) inspires students by showcasing a range of ways others have presented their learning.

- **Consider**

How can YPI be used as a platform for young people to explore and develop an output or product that will have a lasting impact on their charity or social issue?

Inspiration

Powerful partnerships

Business and community partners can add value to the YPI programme in a number of ways, including:

- Contributing to a mentoring programme which adds external value to the learning. This also provides a development opportunity for organisations' staff.
- Attend or sit on the judging panel at your YPI Final Showcase.
- Sponsorship of the minority contribution of the YPI grant, which all schools in year four and beyond have responsibility for*.



Mentoring through YPI

Through YPI you can work with likeminded partners, wider school staff, or senior students to support the delivery and development of the YPI programme. YPI provides a framework to share expertise with young people in support of developing key employability skills, whilst acting as a development opportunity.

More information and resources to support this process are available in the YPI Educator Zone [here](#).

See [Appendix 3: Business partnership letter template](#) which can be used to support communications with prospective partners. Please amend this template to suit your communication style and unique school context, while retaining the key facts and information about the YPI programme.

**From the fourth year of programme delivery, schools take responsibility for a minority portion of the YPI Grant. This contribution is an enhanced level of programme ownership and an opportunity to add value.*

Third sector partnerships

YPI provides an opportunity for young people to engage with and build relationships with third sector organisations. See the [Guide to Working and Volunteering in Scotland's Voluntary Sector](#) for more information.

Partner case study

In [this video](#), QTS and CalMac explain how they have engaged with and supported students through YPI recognising the benefits for students, schools, employees, and partner organisations.

- **Consider**
How could partners support programme delivery? Has the value of internal mentors (students/other staff) or external mentors (business partners) been considered?



Inspiration

Getting the most from your YPI programme

Extending the impact

YPI has greatest impact when it is embedded within the school as part of a progressive skills and citizenship curriculum. Critical to this is the planned and structured approach to how YPI is supporting students to meet relevant benchmarks in areas including teamwork, independent enquiry, creative thinking, and reflective learning.



Consider how students can:

- Reflect on their YPI experience in a structured way. See the plenary session within the [Delivery Resource](#).
- Consolidate what has been learned over the course of the project including skills and experiences and, most importantly, support students to understand how these can be applied in future.
- Commit to future action and engagement in their community. Challenge students to consider how they can continue to develop essential skills for learning, life, and work.

Alumni engagement

YPI is designed to be the beginning of a journey in philanthropy for young people with the hope they will stay connected to their social issue and charity as an advocate and as an active citizen.

Here are some ideas for supporting alumni engagement:

- **Continued charity engagement:** Students could share their YPI presentation with staff members or the public, volunteer, help with fundraisers or other events, write blogs for the charity, etc. Follow up with your students about any commitments they made to stay involved.
- **Create opportunities for YPI alumni to support current participants:** Previous winners and finalists could prepare a short presentation with tips on how to be successful in the programme, or they could deliver their own YPI presentation as a source of inspiration. Maybe you could explore a peer support model and mentorship opportunities – is there a framework at your school that you could tap into? Are there courses older students are undertaking that could align with this opportunity?
- **Give alumni leadership roles during the YPI Final Showcase:** Having YPI alumni help plan or act as master of ceremonies at your YPI Final Showcase can free up a lot of your time and make the event really engaging for the audience. Previous finalists or winners can share their inspiring stories from the programme. Many schools also invite alumni to sit on the judging, which is a great additional reward for previous winners.

School case study

In [this video](#), St Andrew and St Bride's students shared how they engaged with the YPI programme, including insight from S6 mentors who are mentoring the participating S2 year group.

- **Consider**
Reflecting on skills development, volunteering opportunities, mentoring and community engagement, how can the YPI experience be built on as students' progress through the school?



Inspiration

Getting the most from your YPI programme

Added value

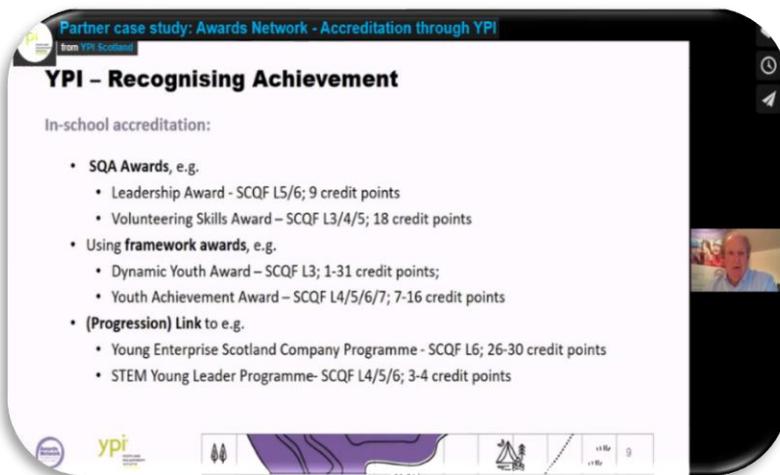
Although not a mandatory requirement, many schools use YPI to support students to achieve formal qualifications and/or awards. This can include SQA awards, as well as youth awards that are credit-rated under the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). YPI also aligns with nationally and internationally recognised awards including Saltire, Duke of Edinburgh, and Rights Respecting Schools.

Within the [Strategic Guide](#) you will find more information on possible links to accreditation and award frameworks.



Awards Network

[Amazing Things](#), the flagship publication for the Awards Network, provides a wealth of information that helps young people, educators, and employers learn more about youth awards and how they contribute to skills development within and outside school. The guide is aimed at everyone who places a value on young people's voluntary efforts to develop their skills and improve the communities around them. Up to date listings of awards can also be access via the Awards Network website.



In [this video](#), Jim Duffy from Awards Network, recognises that being aware of the range of youth awards and other wider achievement awards will enable more educators to ensure that all YPI participants get the recognition and accreditation their skills, endeavours, and achievements merit.

Inspiration

School case study

In [this video](#), Beeslack High School share the practicalities and opportunities in aligning YPI with the Religion, Belief, and Values SQA award. More information is also available in [this article](#).

- **Consider**

Is YPI currently aligned with awards and/or accreditation? Would this add value to your students'? To what extent are young people able to feed into programme monitoring and evaluation?

Appendices



1. Sample letter to parents

School Name/Address
Parent/Guardian Name
Address/Email

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This academic year, your child will be taking part in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

YPI is an active citizenship initiative which empowers young people to make a difference in our community. They will learn about the needs of **INSERT AREA NAME** and the role they can play, while developing key skills through a real-life learning experience.

Students will work in teams to research the needs of our community and identify a local social issue they care about, and a charity they believe is best placed to make a positive change. They then learn how to assess the charity's management, strategy, staffing arrangements, and services.

One of the most important aspects of YPI is the visit students are asked to make to their chosen charity. By visiting a charity, your child will develop a real understanding of some of the challenges facing the community and will, we hope, be inspired to work to change society for the better.

Students will use their research to develop creative presentations on the reasons that their chosen charity is most deserving of support. The team judged to have made the most compelling and convincing presentation will be secure our school's £3000 YPI grant. The Wood Foundation is the operational manager and principal funder of YPI, *and in **REGION** it is supported by **FUNDING PARTNER**. [Please note that we do not have a funding partner in every region - see our [website](#) to find out if there is one in your region.]*

During this process, students develop skills in research, analysis, presentation, and communication, which all contribute to their growth and confidence.

We are excited to be one of more than 280 schools across Scotland to be participating in YPI and hope that you will fully support and encourage your child in researching and visiting a local charity. More information about YPI can be found on www.ypiscotland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

YPI Lead / Head Teacher / DHT

2. YPI Final Showcase invite templates

Judge invite template

School Name/Address

Guest Judge Name/Address/Email

Dear Guest Judge,

Re: Invitation to judge at the **NAME OF SCHOOL** YPI Showcase

I am writing to invite you to our Final Showcase event of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) at **NAME OF SCHOOL** at **DATE AND TIME**. YPI has positively engaged secondary school students across Scotland and awarded £6million to local, social service charities since it began in 2008.

Students at our school have recently taken part in YPI. In teams, they have been researching social issues in our community and creating an engaging and persuasive presentation on local charities they believe are best placed to tackle an issue they are passionate about. At the YPI Final Showcase, finalist teams will be presenting in front of a large audience and a panel of high-profile judges, in support of their chosen charities. This event promises to be an inspiring and exciting occasion as one team will be awarded £3000 to grant to their chosen charity.

I would like to invite you to be part of the judging panel at this event and help select the winning team who will win £3000.

I hope you will be able to attend this event and sit on the judging panel. The students are looking forward to sharing important information about charities and local social issues which they have become passionate about.

I look forward to hearing from you,

YPI Lead Teacher

2. YPI Final Showcase invite templates

Press invite template

School Name/Address

Press & Media Name/Address/Email

Dear Press & Media contact,

Invitation to **NAME OF SCHOOL** YPI Final Showcase

I am writing to invite you to our YPI Final Showcase on **DATE** and **TIME**.

Students at our school have recently taken part in YPI. In teams, they have been researching social issues in our community and creating engaging and persuasive presentations on local charities they believe are best placed to tackle these. At the YPI Final Showcase, finalist teams will be presenting in front of a large audience and a panel of high-profile judges in support of their chosen charities. This event promises to be an inspiring and exciting occasion as one team will be awarded £3000 to grant to their chosen charity.

YPI has positively engaged secondary school students across Scotland and awarded £6.8m to local, social service charities.

We would be delighted to welcome you, or a representative, along to join our celebration. Should you be unable to attend, I would be happy to answer any additional questions that you may have around the programme or our students' engagement. We can also provide a press release and images. For more information on the programme, please visit www.ypiscotland.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you and would be happy to provide a photograph following our YPI Final Showcase.

Yours sincerely,

YPI Lead /Head Teacher / DHT

2. YPI Final Showcase invite templates

General invite template

School Name/Address

Guest/Parent Name/Address/Email

Dear Guest/Parent,

Invitation to YPI Final Showcase at **SCHOOL**

I am writing to invite you to our YPI Final Showcase at **DATE AND TIME**. YPI has positively engaged secondary school students across Scotland and awarded £6m to local, social service charities.

In teams, our students have researched social issues in our community and created engaging and persuasive presentation on local charities addressing these. At the YPI Final Showcase, finalist teams will be presenting in front of a large audience and a panel of high-profile judges, in support of their chosen charities. This event promises to be an inspiring, exciting, and dramatic occasion as one team will be awarded £3000 to grant to their chosen charity.

I hope you will be able to attend this event, to hear about the charities and local social issues which students at our school have become passionate about.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

YPI Lead / Head Teacher / DHT

3. Business partnership letter template

School Name/Address

Business or Partner Name/Address/Email

Dear **CONTACT**,

I am writing regarding an exciting opportunity to partner with us in **NAME OF SCHOOL's** Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Managed in Scotland by The Wood Foundation, YPI is a unique active citizenship programme focused on empowering young people to make a difference in their local community while developing vital skills for learning, life, and work.

NAME OF SCHOOL has been involved in YPI for the past **NUMBER** years and has proudly awarded **£AMOUNT** to the local community through our participation in the programme. As part of our **DELIVERY SUBJECT(S)** curriculum, all **S?** students participate in YPI, taking responsibility for directing a £3000 YPI grant to a local charity through a structured programme of teamwork, research, and competition.

This year we are keen to work alongside like-minded local partners to enhance this project. Opportunities include:

- Working with us to develop a mentoring programme which further supports young people participating in YPI, adding value to their learning experience. This is a great opportunity to enhance your community engagement while providing a personal and professional development opportunity for your team.
- Being a judge at our YPI Final Showcase.
- Supporting our school through sponsorship to fund our minority contribution of our annual YPI Grant (£500), which will be awarded to a local organisation helping our community.

Your role as a key partner of our YPI programme would be duly recognised and profiled and we would be keen to explore further opportunities to enhance our relationship with your organisation.

Across Scotland, The Wood Foundation's YPI programme will be delivered in more than 280 Scottish secondary schools during the 2023/24 academic year. More than 30,000 young people will take part, directing grants to local charities across Scotland. We would be delighted if you could play a role in these efforts in **NAME OF REGION**.

To discuss how you could support this fantastic initiative, please contact **LEAD NAME / SMT LINK NAME** and **CONTACT INFORMATION**.

Thank you in advance and I look forward to hearing from you.

YPI Lead / Head Teacher / DHT

4. YPI Final showcase – feedback for the finalist teams

Team number	What worked well	Even better if
1		
2		
3		

4. YPI Final showcase – feedback for the finalist teams

4		
5		
6		
7		