

Empowering young people during this generation-defining time.

The Wood Foundation outlines adaptations to its YPI programme to respond to the extraordinary circumstances currently facing education and the third sector to ensure these opportunities remain available, equitable and impactful.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be far-reaching and, likely, long-lasting. YPI provides a vehicle for young people to understand and address these events. This is a generation-defining time, with young people most likely to be hardest hit. **Our critical collective responsibility at this time is to empower** them with the agency, skills and opportunities to realise their position, power and potential.

At The Wood Foundation, we are committed to ensuring the continuity of YPI as a **sustained experiential learning offer** for young people, and a **vital means of directly supporting local communities** through youth-led grant making.

Recognising that the coming year will not be business as usual, our close, collaborative partnership with each YPI school is vitally important. We have put in place the **funding and structures to ensure we can deliver YPI across all enrolled schools** in the 2020/21 academic year in a manner befitting of your context.

Programme adaptations & developments

The Wood Foundation's YPI team remains steadfast in our support of programme continuity from a learning and teaching perspective, recognising that YPI addresses many of the **health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy E&Os** through a contextualised, meaningful and important holistic learning experience. More information is available in our [Strategic guide](#).

Third sector engagement and charity contact

Teams can be supported to **engage with charities digitally**, when possible and reflective of charities' capacity, while social distancing guidelines are in place. In the interest of equity, the explicit expectation around charity visits and in-person contact will be removed in the YPI judging criteria during 2020/21.

Reduced expectations relating to in-person charity contact may support compressed delivery timeframes which will be discussed in the programme planning stage.

Programme development session (PDS), launches and finals

During the 2020/21 academic year, **The Wood Foundation's interventions in support of programme delivery will draw upon remote and digital communications**, only reverting to in-person support in conjunction with advice from government, local authorities and schools. Such an approach has been successfully delivered with a rural cohort since 2018.

- Programme development sessions will be delivered remotely and collaboratively on a platform suitable for the school, in line with the [PDS guidance note](#).
- There will be [enhanced guidance](#) and a newly developed [student launch video](#) to support teacher-led launches, negating the need for whole year group launch assemblies at this time.
- YPI finals can be progressed as closed events or online. Options will be discussed and agreed with The Wood Foundation during the programme development session. Examples include students presenting to a limited or no audience, a live online final, or pre-recorded presentations which can be shared with the judging panel. While external guests are not advised to enter schools, your YPI Regional Facilitator can facilitate your Final remotely, providing the judges' briefing and support for deliberation via video call.

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Our ambition remains that all sessions are collaborative, supportive, delivered with quality and integrity. We will work in partnership with each school to identify solutions to ensure YPI retains its esteem within the ethos and life of the school.

Programme delivery considerations

Equity of opportunity is a founding principle of YPI. We recognise there will be major logistical challenges to contend with in the 2020/21 academic year and will **support schools to maximise the reach of the programme**, recognising that the learning and teaching offered through YPI is vitally important across a diverse range of students. We will work with you to develop the most effective context-specific solution, investigating digital and blended delivery options should they be required. We accept that in exceptional cases whole year group delivery may simply not be possible and can work with schools to agree adapted plans.

We have evaluated the outcomes of our Your Community Fund project, an adapted version of YPI delivered entirely online during lockdown between April and June 2020. In the event of a return to blended or online learning in 2020/21, we will work closely with you to leverage this experience and ensure continuity of programme delivery even in extenuating circumstances.



Resources

Our library of resources underpins successful programme delivery in all participating schools. We have **developed new resources** for the 2020/21 academic year, including enhanced launch support, all of which is accessible via <https://ypiscotland.org.uk/>

The structure of YPI has progressed from seven sessions into a clear four-part programme of activity designed to better focus on the key themes central to YPI: 1) Understanding social issues and my community; 2) Exploring the third sector; 3) Charity selection and active research; 4) Presentation development and YPI Showcase.

Programme legacy and impact

The empowerment of #generationchange as active citizens is an important driver of YPI, developing and encouraging young people to contribute their time, talent and skills to causes they care about. In the current climate, this is more important than ever, but we recognise the challenges. Supporting students to understand their role beyond YPI as advocates for their communities by fundraising, awareness raising and, potentially, volunteering would be encouraged as an important post-programme activity.

As an engaged, committed and proactive partner, we are dedicated to supporting all participating schools, through an adaptive and responsive approach, to deliver the most impactful YPI programme possible in the 2020/21 academic year. We are in no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on our communities. However, your ongoing commitment to YPI is supporting positive change at an acute time of need – for our young people and our communities. During these unprecedented times, **empowering youth voice and action is more important than ever.**

Should you wish to discuss delivery of YPI in 2020/21, please don't hesitate to contact our YPI team at ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk.