

We will send out voter cards to schools in time for voting to take place between **1 Feb** and **1 March 2024**.

If after election a MYP or Youth Ambassador cannot under take their duties as hoped we will discuss with you offering more support/taking a break - in exceptional circumstances a candidate may need to step down and the opportunity be offered to someone else.

What happens if I am not elected?

The results of the election can be influenced by lots of factors for example how many young people stand and how many schools take part or the numbers of children who vote. If you are not successful, this doesn't mean the issue you have raised is not important. We will be able to offer you other opportunities to progress your ideas and meet with those with similar interests for example via Youth Assembly or Youth Board. So think of taking part as a gateway to other chances to take part in local democracy and a great way to meet people and build new skills!

Make Your Mark Scheme 2024

The British Youth Council's Make Your Mark scheme is a national ballot of young people to find out which issues are of greatest importance to them. 500,000 children voted in the last Make You Mark ballot and they hope to reach 1 million this year!

We will also be encouraging Barnet Schools to take part in the British Youth Councils Make Your Mark Scheme at the same time as the youth elections process takes place. To assist with this we will register for the scheme and send out ballot papers to Barnet schools.

We will keep our candidates updated about Make Your Mark.

More information is available here [UK-Youth-Parliament-Make-Your-Mark-Infographic-2022.pdf \(byc2016.wpenginepowered.com\)](#)



mysaymatters@barnet.gov.uk



Barnet Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador Elections 2024-2026

CANDIDATE PACK

Process starts on **15 December 2023**
Scan the code to find out more!



Meet our Barnet Members of Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassadors 2022- 2024



Isaac Reuben and Elysse Adil (MYPs)



Deetya Pardasani and Ania Siad (Youth Ambassadors)

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Barnet Youth Ambassadors Scheme

Although the Youth Ambassadors scheme does not have a formal code of conduct we will use the principles for young peoples behaviour in the Youth Parliament Rulebook as a basis to support the role. Candidates should therefore be familiar with these expectations and if elected adhere to them. The Youth Ambassador role is non party political and issue based and those elected need to follow guidance offered around their social media usage.

Filling in Your Nomination Form

You need to do this with your parent or guardian as they will be asked to give consent for you to take part including whether you give media consent (information about that is on the form). We will also ask you about information we may need to assist you taking part if elected.

We will ask you to fill in details of your manifesto for election which will be your campaign if elected. This will include a subject title, why you want to campaign on the issue and what you hope to achieve. It will help you develop your manifesto if you attend one of our workshops where we will offer more information and you can ask questions.

Campaigning and Elections Process

All candidates get a chance to campaign on their chosen topic or issue. More information will be given at our campaign workshops about how this works. You will also have the chance to attend a Hustings meeting on 31 Jan 2024 to share your campaign in front of other candidates.

Barnet secondary schools administer the voting process. This will be done using a digital ballot process which will be confirmed to candidates before the election. The number of votes allocated is based on the number of pupils in each school. Schools will be asked to encourage young people to vote by topic and not just because the candidate is in their school. All schools get voting cards but we cannot guarantee that all schools will take part in the vote.

It is important to know that the election process is an educational experience and is not formal democratic one. That means it differs from the way adult politicians get elected. However we strive to ensure the process is fair and robust and that everyone taking part has a good experience. We use a partner MiVoice an electoral services company to help us.

We will not make public details of the votes polled by each candidate and these will not be announced on results night - we will announce the winners names only. We are happy to answer any queries you may have about this beforehand.

The application process can be accessed at www.barnetukyp.co.uk from 15 Dec 2023.

Further Information

UK Youth Parliament

UKYP is part of the British Youth Council's Youth Voice Programme: British Youth Council | Youth Voice (byc.org.uk).

More information about Youth Parliament is here British Youth Council | UK Youth Parliament (byc.org.uk).

Information about becoming an MYP is here British Youth Council | Elections - UK Youth Parliament (byc.org.uk).

Here are some national news stories about MYPs to inspire you to take part including the story of Seth Burke a disabled MYP:

Youth Parliament: How Seth Burke is an unwitting political pioneer - *BBC News*

UK Youth Parliament: 'We have fire in us to create change' - *BBC News*

UK Youth Parliament: Get involved, says Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle - *BBC News*

Important information about MYPs Duties and Eligibility to Apply

We expect our elected Barnet MYPs to abide by all the arrangements set out in the British Youth Council Rulebook here [v1-2023-UK-Youth-Parliament-Rulebook.pdf](#) (byc2016.wenginepowered.com) which includes details of eligibility criteria.

To be elected as an MYP you need to be able to commit some time to take part over the two year term. We don't set a minimum amount of hours and we understand that young peoples free time will fluctuate around their commitments and exam periods.

Below are some highlights but there are many other opportunities on offer. We fund transport and other costs of taking part.

- Weekend Residential July 2024 approx (essential) – this could be anywhere in the UK
- Weekend Residential July 2025 approx (desirable)
- House of Parliament sitting in Nov 2024 and 2025 – 1 day each (essential)
- 4 BYC conventions per year (optional)
- Attending Barnet Children and & Young Peoples Board 6 weekly to represent Barnet young people (to attend as many as possible) – this is usually on line and may be live streamed to the public

Frequently Asked Questions

Youth Parliament focuses on the national picture for young people, **Barnet Youth Ambassadors is a specific scheme local to Barnet. Candidates have to chose one or the other so cannot apply to stand for both. The term for both positions is 2 years – March 2024 – March 2026. Candidates are elected by their peers on the basis of a chosen campaign topic and not affiliation with a political party.**

What is the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)?

The UKYP is a youth led national forum run by the British Youth Council. It enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Open to 11-18 year olds that have been elected as Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) by their communities, UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for young people to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

What does a Barnet Member of Youth Parliament do?

- Represent the young people of Barnet at national and occasionally international events
- Take part in an annual debate in the House of Commons chamber and vote to decide the top two issues which will become the UK Youth Parliaments priority campaigns for the year ahead
- Work alongside other elected Barnet youth representatives eg Youth Ambassadors and chairs of Barnet Youth Assembly
- Campaign on their chosen topic to influence change for Barnet young people
- Represent young people by sitting on Barnet's Children and Young Peoples Board

What is the Barnet Youth Ambassadors scheme and what do they do?

Barnet elects 2 Youth Ambassadors who will be involved in council decision-making at local level including representing the views of young people across the borough. This is different to the MYPs who focus on national issues for young people – Youth Ambassadors focus on what happens here in Barnet.

Youth Ambassadors

- Chair Barnet’s Youth Board which is a forum for young people to comment on council policy
- Sit on Barnet’s Children and Young Peoples Board representing their peers
- Campaign on their chosen topic to influence change for Barnet young people
- Take part in a wide range of initiatives under Barnet’s My Say Matters offer

How are young people elected and what do I need to do?

If you are interested in standing for election for either scheme then you need to fill in the nomination form at www.barnetukyp.co.uk which will go live **15th Dec 2023 and close on 25 January 2024.**

To stand for election you will need to choose a topic to campaign on, something that you believe needs to change or improve for young people in Barnet. Examples of previous campaign topics are knife crime, LGBT+ inclusion in schools, drug awareness and improving the offer of extracurricular activities.

There is a form for you to set out your campaign manifesto and we are offering workshops (see below) to give you some advice about how to do this.

You may wish to attend the workshop before filling in the form.

On the nomination form you will set out your campaign manifesto, we will confirm this has been accepted at the end of the nomination window. You will then have the chance to campaign on your chosen topic and influence others to vote for you.

In spring 2024 the young people of Barnet will vote to select their 2 MYPs and 2 Youth Ambassadors to represent them. Last time 38 young people stood for election and 7,700 young people voted!

7,700 Barnet schoolchildren elect their new Youth Ambassadors and Youth Parliament Members | Barnet Council

Do I need experience to take part?

No! You do not need any particular experience – you need to be enthusiastic about representing the voice of other young people in Barnet and you need to be able commit some time to attend meetings and events over a 2 year period.

More information about that is below on page 6.

We welcome applications from all young people who are living, studying or working in Barnet and are

- Aged 11 upwards and in year 7 or above
- Have had their 17th birthday on or after 1 April 2024 as both schemes cut off at 19

Qualities that will help you succeed in the role include being able to listen and respect the views of others, a willingness to learn new skills and have a go, using support available and having a sense of humour!

Equality Diversity and Inclusion

We want to encourage young people of all backgrounds and circumstances to take part. We value diversity and welcome applicants who represent our Barnet community through their personal characteristics: gender, disability, faith and belief, class, race, culture and LGBT+ identity. Support can be provided for those with additional needs.

Key Dates

15 December 2023	Candidate nominations open	www.barnetukyp.co.uk
20 December 2023 6-7pm	Info Session for Young People and Parents/Carers	Online Eventbrite CLICK HERE
4 January 2024 11-12.30pm	Campaign Manifesto Workshop/Info Session Recap – Option 1	Online Eventbrite CLICK HERE
11 January 2024 5.30-7pm	Campaign Manifesto Workshop/Info Session Recap – Option 2	Online Eventbrite CLICK HERE
25 January 2024	Candidate nominations close	
26-29 January 2024	We confirm acceptance of nominations	
31 January 2024 6-8pm	Hustings and Questions to Candidates Venue to be supplied to candidates	In Person – Venue is Accessible
1 February 2024	Voting Opens	Voting starts in schools
1 March 2024	Voting Closes	Voting ends in schools
21st March 2024 TBC	Results evening Venue to be supplied to candidates	In Person – Venue is Accessible

Where can I get more information?

Further information on the schemes is below. You can also get more information by coming to our information sessions on 20 Dec/4 Jan/11 Jan or emailing rebecca.morris@barnet.gov.uk She can confirm arrangements and will be happy to have chat by phone too.

