



Engaging with the Jersey Youth Assembly:

A Short Guide





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The Jersey Youth Assembly (JYA) provides young people in Jersey, aged 14-19, with the opportunity to engage in political discussion, express their views, and have their voice heard on decisions that affect them. Meaningful engagement requires adults to foster a respectful, inclusive environment where children's voices are genuinely valued.

1. Understanding the Jersey Youth Assembly



In order for the JYA to achieve its aims and objectives, it's essential that young people are able to choose the topics that they investigate. The Jersey Youth Assembly's primary purpose is to serve the needs and interest of its members. It is also important to note that the Jersey Youth Assembly is a voluntary group – its members are not elected representatives but are self-selected. Therefore, while their views are valuable, they may not fully represent all young people in Jersey. Whilst the Jersey Youth Assembly will seek to research and collate as many views as they can, efforts should be made to engage a broader range of voices where possible.

The Jersey Youth Assembly is comprised of three main parts:

1

Inquiry Groups

These groups investigate various topics and provide a platform for young people to voice their views on current issues.

2

Executive Group

Elected annually by members, this group leads the Assembly and helps shape its direction.

3

Learning & Development Opportunities

These support members in developing their skills, confidence, and leadership.

The Jersey Youth Assembly welcomes collaboration with States Members, Government departments, charities, businesses, and other organisations. This could include a JYA inquiry group contributing to a workstream or an organisation offering work experience opportunities for JYA members.

We respectfully ask that anyone wishing to engage with the Jersey Youth Assembly reads this guide in full before completing the request for participation form.

2.

Jersey's Participation Standards



In 2022, children and young people from across the island came together to create Jersey's Participation Standards. These ensure that children and young people in Jersey who choose to have their say:

- are listened to
- have their view included
- have their contributions respected and acted upon

The Participation Standards are as follows:

1

Listen:

All children and young people should have opportunities to be listened to, included and involved in decisions that affect their lives.

2

Choice:

All children and young people should have a right to choose or consent to be involved or change their mind.

3

Information:

All children and young people should have information about their involvement that is easy to understand, fun or interesting.

4

Safe:

All children and young people should feel safe and supported when having a say.



The Participation Standards cont.

5

Respect:

All children and young people should be treated with kindness and their views and ideas should be valued.

6

Influence:

All children and young people's views and ideas should have a genuine and direct influence on decision-making.

7

Feedback:

All children and young people should be listened to and receive feedback

These Standards should underpin all engagement with the Jersey Youth Assembly and help ensure that participation is meaningful.

More information on the Participation Standards can be found at gov.je/yoursay



3. Engaging with the Jersey Youth Assembly



We want members of the Jersey Youth Assembly to enjoy participating and for the Assembly to involve as wide a range of young people as possible.

Often, more formal or traditional methods of engagement are the default over imaginative, creative approaches that enable deeper, more reflective participation. To foster more meaningful engagement, we encourage the use of alternative methods that resonate with young people's experiences and interests.

There are several valuable resources available to help organisations design effective and inclusive participation opportunities. We strongly encourage anyone wishing to engage with the Jersey Youth Assembly to consult these resources for inspiration:

- **A Toolkit for Engaging with Children and Young People in Jersey**

Created by the Jersey Youth Service and the Government of Jersey, this document offers practical guidance for planning and delivering youth engagement activities.

- **Participation Standards Activity Toolkit**

Co-created by the Government of Jersey and hundreds of children and young people, this toolkit provides interactive activities and frameworks based on Jersey's Participation Standards.

These resources support approaches that place young people at the centre of the process and help ensure their voices are heard, valued, and acted upon.

Should you wish to discuss a method of engaging with the Jersey Youth Assembly, our officers are happy to discuss your proposal with you and can be contacted via email at jya@gov.je.

We request that that anyone who wishes to collaborate with the Jersey Youth Assembly and gather their input commits to update or feedback to the young people within a month of the consultation. This can be provided through another visit, an email or letter.

4. Requesting input from the Jersey Youth Assembly



If you would like to request the input of the Jersey Youth Assembly, please complete the Request for Participation Form using the following link: **Request Form**.

Once your request has been submitted, it will be reviewed by the Executive Group. The Executive Group will consider:

- **Whether the request aligns** with the Jersey Youth Assembly's aims and objectives
- **The potential for meaningful participation** by young people
- **The capacity of the Assembly** to undertake the work at the time of the request

After reviewing your submission, a member of the Executive Group will get in touch with you to discuss the next steps.

Many thanks for your interest in the Jersey Youth Assembly, it is greatly appreciated.

