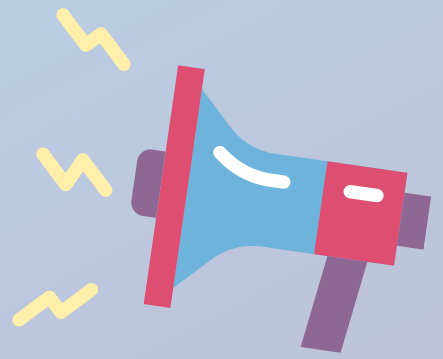


Policy Guide



What is GYC Policy?



The Glasgow Youth Council represents all of Glasgow's young people, and our members have the chance to propose and pass policy motions at Full Council Meetings, regarding any issue that affects young people in the city.

Any GYC member is eligible to propose policy motions during a policy session at a GYC full council meeting, but we encourage members to consult with local young people prior to proposing a motion!

Policy motions proposed by members always go to a debate- this gives all members a chance to speak for or against the motion. More on debating later in this guide!

If a motion passes by receiving 50%+1 vote of votes in the affirmative (eg. if there were 8 votes cast, a motion would need 5 votes in 'agree' to pass), then GYC's Policy and Public Affairs Officer will add it to our Policy Log, which documents all active GYC policy.

Click this image of the Policy Log to have a read of it yourself!

Once you pass your motion there's lots of ways to use it to create change in Glasgow- more on this later!

Policy Log

A complete record of GYC's active policy. Any queries please contact GYC's Policy & Public Affairs Officer at gycppa@outlook.com.

Contents

- Manifesto Statements (2016-19)
- Education
 - Inclusive Education
 - Mental & Physical Wellbeing in Education
 - Education Curriculum
 - Higher & Further Education
 - Positive Destinations & Attainment Opportunities
- Social Justice
 - Equality & Inclusion
 - Crime & Justice
 - Environment & Preservation
 - Democracy
- Employment & Social Security
 - Employment
 - Social Security & Finance
- Transport
- Healthcare
 - Mental Health
 - Physical Health
- COVID-19 & Lockdown

Policy Statement	Proposer/Date	% in favour	Active Until
"The Glasgow Youth Council believes in order to alleviate issues arising from sectarianism in the city, schools should teach the troubles in Ireland from a neutral stance, to better inform young people of the history of sectarianism, and promote understanding and compassion."	Mark Hume, seconded by Brogan McAloon April 2020	94%	April 2022
"The Glasgow Youth Council believes that more training must be provided to primary and secondary school teachers in Glasgow with regards to young people with autism and Asperger's syndrome being included in mainstream schooling."	Aqeel Ahmed (on behalf of Jessica McGaw), seconded by Calum McLeod. Aug 2017 RENEWED BY FULL COUNCIL NOV. 2019.	85% (at renewal)	Nov 2021
"The Glasgow Youth Council believes that Independent and Private schools should not be able to claim charitable status unless they take measures to become more inclusive and strive to benefit the public as a whole, not just those with the ability to pay."	Jack Dudgeon, seconded by Alana McKenna Feb. 2017 RENEWED BY FULL COUNCIL NOV. 2019	67% (at renewal)	Nov 2021

What types of Policy are there?

There are two different types of GYC policy: **Manifesto Statements** and **Policy Motions**.



MANIFESTO STATEMENTS

- The policies are developed through our manifesto process, where we consult young people in Glasgow on issues that affect them, and create a manifesto document based off this consultation.
- Since manifesto statements are voted on by a large number of the city's young people instead of just our membership, these policies are often used for big GYC campaigns!
- These policies last 5 years, and should be reviewed following the publication of a new manifesto (more info on this in GYC's constitution if you're interested!)

POLICY STATEMENTS

- The policies are the statements which are proposed and voted on by GYC members at Full Council Meetings. This is the policy type this guide focuses on!
- Any current GYC member can propose a policy statement, and though members are encouraged to research and consult on the issue beforehand, it is not a requirement.
- Members can also carry out work and campaigning on these policies, even if they did not propose it themselves!
- These policies last 2 years, after which they must be reviewed by the Policy and Public Affairs Officer, and can be proposed for renewal if it is still a current or pressing issue (again, more info in our constitution).

Policy Timeline

It can be hard to keep track of deadlines for an upcoming policy meeting, and it can be helpful to plan ahead! Here's a handy guide so you can keep track easily!

This is only for months when a Policy session is planned; the frequency of policy sessions is up to GYC's Executive Committee, so ask them if you're unsure!



3 Weeks before a Policy Meeting

GYC's Policy & Public Affairs Officer will email asking for Policy submissions. Make sure to email your policy statements to them as soon as possible, and ask them for help if you're struggling with wording it (more on this later)!



1 Week before a Policy Meeting

The call for Policy submissions closes, so make sure you get yours in before the deadline!



1 Week before a Policy Meeting

GYC's Policy & Public Affairs Officer will email out a list of the proposed motions which will be debated, and will ask for members to second the motion or propose amendments to them. This is the chance for you to propose any changes to the motions which are up for debate.



2 days before a Policy Meeting

The call for motion seconders and amendments closes. Remember to propose any amendments before this deadline, since there's not normally time for new ones during meetings!



If a motion does not receive a seconder prior to a meeting, then one will be asked for during the policy session.

Policy Session at Full Council Meeting

Before the Full Council meeting you should receive a list of the policies which are up for debate, including any amendments. If you proposed a policy make sure to have your 3 minute speech ready, and good luck!

What Are Amendments?

Amendments are a way for members to propose changes to the wording of a proposed policy before it goes to a vote. Here's how they work!



How to submit an amendment?

Any GYC member can propose an amendment to a motion. GYC's Policy Officer will usually ask for amendments one week before a policy meeting, after emailing out the list of policy statements which are up for debate. Email GYC's Policy Officer with your amendment, and let them know which motion it is you're amending!

Debating and voting on amendments

After your speech, a seconder will be called for (if none come forward the amendment will automatically fall), and then members will be invited to debate the amendment.

After the debate, the amendment will be voted on and if it receives 50% plus 1 or more votes in favour, it passes. If passed, the membership will then vote on the motion itself as amended, to decide whether it should become GYC policy.

“The Glasgow Youth Council believes every school in Glasgow should have a 'safe space' - a dedicated quiet room to be used at any time during the school day by any pupil who is feeling down, anxious or distressed. GYC further believes that, if possible, these safe spaces should be staffed by volunteers or staff members to ensure that any young person who needs to can talk to someone if needed.”

Why submit amendments?

There are many different reasons you may want to submit an amendment. You might agree with the motion, but think it needs to be more specific, you may have noticed a grammatical or factual error, or maybe you want to add in some more information to the motion!

What happens when an amendment is submitted?

If you submit an amendment, you will have **3 minutes** to speak in favour of it at the meeting, after the motion proposer and seconder have completed their speeches. You can use this time to explain what your amendment is and what it changes, as well as argue why it will improve the motion.

EXAMPLE OF AN AMENDMENT...

“The Glasgow Youth Council believes every school in Glasgow should have a 'safe space' - a dedicated quiet room to be used at any time during the school day by any pupil who is feeling down, anxious or distressed.”

This could be amended as follows, to include specifications about staffing these safe spaces!

Writing your motion!



Writing a Policy statement can be tricky! Here's some information about the requirements they must meet, what issues they can be on, and how best to word them.



A POLICY STATEMENT MUST...

- ➔ **Be politically impartial!** This means it does not endorse any political party or designated campaign in any referendum.
- ➔ **Must not clash with existing GYC policy.** If it does, the statement must state clearly that it repeals (replaces) existing policy. Make sure you check the policy log to see if a similar motion already exists!
- ➔ **Be respectful!** A policy will not be accepted for debate if it contains discriminatory or aggressive language, or if it is offensive (racist, sexist, homophobic etc.) in any way.
- ➔ **Adhere to GYC's aims and values as outlined in the constitution.** This means policies must have relevance to Glasgow's young people, and aim to further their interests!

HOW SHOULD I WORD MY POLICY STATEMENT?

Every Policy Statement must begin with the words "**The Glasgow Youth Council...**", however there are multiple ways you can continue this sentence. The following statement starters may help you write your motion:

- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council believes...**"
- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council supports...**"
- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council welcomes...**"
- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council regrets...**"
- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council notes...**"
- ➔ "**The Glasgow Youth Council condemns...**"

Writing your motion!

Here's some tips for writing your motion, and some examples from GYC's Policy Log!



“The Glasgow Youth Council believes that pre-election education should be provided to all young people, to ensure that they are equipped to make an informed voting decision.”

Name any organisations or Government/Council bodies related to the motion!

If you want to make change with your motion, it can help to call on relevant organisations or government/council bodies, and ask them to take action on the issue. If you do this, then do some research, and make sure you're naming the organisations who can make change on the issue!

Keep it clear and concise!

It's important to make sure your policy statement is specific, and has a clear aim. This may help it pass a vote, since members may not vote for a motion if they aren't sure what it aims to do. This also makes it easier to use it to campaign in future!

“The Glasgow Youth Council believes that Youth Councils, forums and parliaments led by and for Young People are essential in ensuring the participation of Young People in the political system, and calls on the UK government, Scottish government and local governments to guarantee their continued existence and funding.”

“The Glasgow Youth Council supports the use of disability assistance initiatives, such as the Thistle Assistance Card scheme and the Sunflower Lanyard scheme, and calls for their implementation across the transport sector and beyond.”

Do some research and grammar check!

It helps to research the issue you plan to propose your motion on, so you can make sure the facts are right and up to date! It also helps to grammar check it too, to avoid unnecessary amendments being proposed to change the wording. Don't worry about this too much though, GYC's Policy Officer will help with fixing spelling or grammar errors!

Writing a Speech



Facts and Research!

When writing a speech it's helpful to do some research on the issue discussed in your policy motion. Often you can find interesting facts or statistics which you can include in your speech to support your argument!

Delivering your speech!

Public speaking can be scary, but at GYC we always welcome and support members who decide to propose policy, and give a speech. If you are nervous, it can help to practise your speech with a friend beforehand, and take a deep breath before giving your speech- good luck!

Once you've written your motion, and it's accepted you'll need to write a **3 minute speech** in favour of your motion, which you will give at the Full Council's policy session. Here's some tips for writing and giving your speech!



Keep it relevant!

Make sure your speech doesn't go on unnecessary tangents, and keep it related to the motion itself. This will help members understand the motion fully, and will avoid any confusion.

Practice, practice, practice!

You only have 3 minutes for your speech at a Full Council Meeting, so it helps to practice and time your speech before the meeting, so you can make sure you don't run out of time. Practising will also give you more confidence when you give your speech to the Full Council!



How to Debate

After the motion proposer has given their speech at the Full Council Meeting, the policy will go to a debate, where other members can contribute their views before moving to a vote.

What does it mean to second a motion?

If you second a motion, it means you agree with it, and your name will be entered into the policy alongside the name of the motion proposer! If no seconder comes forward, the motion automatically falls.



WHAT HAPPENS DURING A DEBATE?

After a policy motion has been proposed, the Secunder of the motion will be asked to speak if they wish. If no one offered to second the motion in advance, then one will be asked for during the meeting. The seconder of the motion gets **2 minutes** to speak if they wish!

If an amendment was proposed, their proposer will be called to speak for 3 minutes. A seconder will be asked for, and the amendment will be voted on.

After this, the motion will go to a debate. Members will be asked to speak either against or in favour of the motion, and all contributions are limited to 3 minutes!

The policy motion goes to a vote. Every GYC member in attendance can vote on the motions, and this is normally done by electronic ballot, with the options to 'Agree', 'Disagree' or 'Abstain'. If a policy receives 50% plus 1 or more votes in favour ('Agree') then it passes, and becomes GYC policy!

TIPS FOR DEBATING...

Be respectful!

At GYC, we have lots of members with different views, so it's important that members can oppose policy statements in debates. Just make sure you remain respectful when speaking in a debate—every opinion deserves to be heard!



Plan ahead!

Make sure you read the policies which are up for debate before the meeting! This means you can read up about them, and if you chose to oppose or support a motion in a debate you will feel more prepared.

Project confidence!

Though it can be scary to speak in debates, it gets easier the more you do it! So don't shy away from speaking your mind when it comes to policy. Go into it with as much confidence as you can, project your voice, and fake it until you make it!

What Happens Next?



Once your policy is passed and in the Policy Log, you might want to carry out campaign work with it (if you do, remember to keep GYC's Campaigns Officer in the loop!) Here's some ideas on what to do next with your policy!



Contact relevant local organisations or bodies!

If your policy calls on a specific organisation or government/council body, then you can contact them in your capacity as a Youth Councillor. Introduce yourself, discuss your policy and how it is relevant to young people in Glasgow, and ask them to help make a change!

Work with other Youth Councillors!

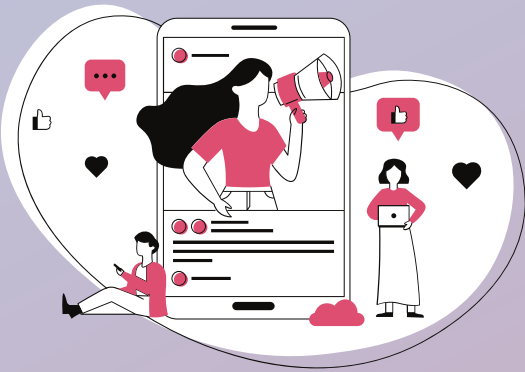
Reach out to fellow GYC members who supported your motion, and work with them to contact relevant people or to raise awareness of the issue. The more people behind a campaign, the bigger impact it will have!



Shout on Social Media!

Social media can be a brilliant tool for change, so once your motion passes be sure to tweet about it, and tag @GlasgowYC!

You could even start a social media campaign: choose a good hashtag, and share information and graphics which relate to your policy, and tag others to get them involved.



Join GYC's Policy Enactment Group!

GYC's Policy Enactment Working Group is a team of GYC Members who use active policy to run mini-campaigns and create change in Glasgow.

This is a great way to team together and start campaigning, and if you join you'll get a bigger say on what policies are campaigned on within GYC!

If you're interested in joining, contact GYC's Policy Officer (gycppa@outlook.com) or GYC's Campaigns Officer (gyccampaigns@outlook.com)!



Thanks for
Reading!

Good luck with your policy
submissions and campaigns!

