

Election Essentials

This is an excerpt from the [UK Youth Parliament Procedures Book](#):

2.5. Term of Office

- a) This will run from 1 March to 28/29 February each year.
- b) MYPs may be elected office for a one or two year term, with the exception of Members of Youth Parliament in Scotland who stand for an 18 month term.

2.6. Election Rules for Members of Youth Parliament

2.6.1. Eligibility to Stand

- a) Candidates must:
 - i. be aged 11-18 on the first day on their office.
 - ii. live, work or volunteer for a minimum of 14 hours per week, or be in education for more than the equivalent of three school days a week, in the constituency in which they stand for election. They cannot stand in more than one constituency in the same year's election.

2.6.2. Elections

- a) All UK Youth Parliament elections should be concluded by the end of February to coincide with the national results week.
- b) Support staff from the constituency are responsible for the running of the elections and ensuring that they are run appropriately, elections to the UK Youth Parliament are not the direct responsibility of BYC support staff.
- c) MYPs must be elected, this can be done in the following ways:
 - a. Directly elected (by young people in their constituency)
 - b. Indirectly elected (by a youth council/another body who have previously been elected by young people in the same constituency)
 - c. Constituencies should ensure that there is an equal opportunity for all 11 – 18 year olds who live, work, volunteer for a minimum of 14 hours or a week or are in education for more than the equivalent of three school days a week in the constituency to stand and vote in UK Youth Parliament elections.
- d. The complaints procedure for any UK Youth Parliament elections should be publically available.
- e. In the first instance, any complaints about UK Youth Parliament elections should be taken up at a local level with the body responsible for the running of the elections. If the local complaints procedure has been exhausted and has not reached a satisfactory conclusion then it may be escalated to the British Youth Council who are the national body responsible for the running of the UK Youth Parliament.

Allocation of MYPs

Each LA has an allocation of at least one MYP, this then increases for every 29,900 young people in the LA. Following the 2011 Census, the MYP allocations were revised. In the majority of cases this didn't affect the MYP allocation, but in a number of cases there were increases and decreases. These changes came into effect from September 2013. With affected LAs being notified in February '13 ahead of wider publication. **Current MYP allocations are in the [Procedures Book](#)**

Flipping of MYP role

It is not accepted practice to “flip” an MYP mid-way through an elected term of office. This is so that the national representatives of each constituency are the young people who won their elections, and therefore have a democratic mandate to speak on the behalf of young people in their constituency at a national level.

Role of Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

As an organisation supports and recognises the contribution of all young volunteers who give their time to be youth representatives in their local areas, whether they are Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (DMYPs), Youth Councillors, Young Mayors, Children in Care council members, Youth Forum members or any other youth representative role. We recognise the support that DMYPs give to MYPs and Local Authorities who choose to have them, there are many examples across the country where this model works well and we expect this to continue to be the case. It is for this reason we have provided this briefing to help clarify the role.

Since 2011, BYC has been commissioned by Government to provide a support service to Local Authority youth voice vehicles (including youth forums/councils/mayors/UK Youth Parliament) and to manage the UK Youth Parliament opportunities and provide support to elected MYPs. The two national UK Youth Parliament events, the Annual Sitting and House of Commons sitting, are for elected Members of Youth Parliament only. Where an MYP is unable to attend either of the two national events above, the constituency may choose to send a young person to deputise for them. This young person must be selected from the local youth voice vehicle (e.g. the Youth Council). Any person deputising for an MYP is bound by the code of conduct for MYPs as they are fulfilling that role for that event. When speaking at these events they should refer to themselves as deputising for an MYP.

Within the UK Youth Parliament as a national programme and the two national events outlined above, there isn't a designated role for DMYPs, and the programme the British Youth Council inherited in 2011 was never set up with this role in mind. The UK Youth Parliament handbook given to BYC to reflects this. The Procedures Book has been written and updated by consecutive elected Procedures Groups over the past 5 years, and any changes over this time have been made to ensure the UK Youth Parliament is fair, democratic and youth-led. The Procedures Group are supported to make decisions which are in the best interests of the national programme, taking into account the different experiences across Local Authorities and regions/nations.

A fuller clarifying note on the [role of Deputy Members of Youth Parliament](#) was shared in December 2015

Questions: please contact your Youth Democracy Coordinator