Spotlight on partnerships – Parliaments and Democracy

**Scottish Youth Parliament** (<http://www.syp.org.uk/>)

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) represents Scotland's young people. Its elected members, aged 14-25, listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision makers. SYP offers a range of youth engagement sessions to young people from across Scotland. The sessions have been developed by their experienced Youth Engagement team and are available to young people aged 12-26 in a variety of different formats. They have campaigned on a number of issues which Scotland's young people have shown matter to them. These include votes at 16 and same-sex marriage. Another campaign, ‘Poverty: See It Change It,’ aims to raise awareness among young people about child and youth poverty, and their right to an adequate standard of living.

**Scottish Parliament (**<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/visitandlearn/12270.aspx>**)**

Education for Citizenship is the main focus for the parliament’s education service. The Curriculum for Excellence is underpinned by the values on the Parliament’s mace – wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity – and they offer experiences with these in mind that encourage active learning using co-operative and collaborative approaches.

There is no charge for visiting the parliament or outreach visits from education staff or MSPs to a school. Generally, the visits and outreach programmes are most suitable for Primary 6 and above. It may be possible to make exceptions where a school teaches the Scottish Parliament topic within a different year group. For small schools with broadly mixed age-group composite classes, they can offer sessions from P4 upwards in our outreach programme.

**UK Parliament**

The UK Parliament’s Education Service is dedicated to inform, engage and empower learners and connect schools and young people to the UK Parliament.

You can book visits to the UK Parliament here. (<http://www.parliament.uk/education/visit-parliament-with-your-school/>)

The UK Parliament also offers a wide range of outreach workshops, MP visits, regional events and competitions which can be found here. (<http://www.parliament.uk/education/outreach-in-your-school/>)

**EU Parliament**

**Euroquiz:** The Scottish European Educational Trust runs an annual Euroquiz for P6 pupils, which sees teams of four working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe. Subjects covered include history, geography, sport, culture, languages and the European Union. Heats take place in local authorities from January to March, with the winning teams from all areas going on to the national final in May, held in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament. Full details can be found here. (<http://www.seet.org.uk/activities/euroquiz.php>)

**The European Parliament Information Office** in Edinburgh offers free education materials for schools and provide speakers for EU-related seminars, debates and events. (<http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/edinburgh-office.html>)

**Euroscola** is a funded and unique opportunity for 16-18 year olds to learn about European integration by experiencing it first-hand. Students from the 28 EU Member States are selected to become a Member of the European Parliament for one day at the Parliament's premises in Strasbourg. (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/euroscola>)

**The European Charlemagne Youth Prize** aims to encourage the development of European consciousness among young people, as well as their participation in European integration projects.

The Prize is awarded to projects undertaken by young people which foster understanding, promote the development of a shared sense of European identity, and offer practical examples of Europeans living together as one community**.** (<http://www.charlemagneyouthprize.eu/view/en/introduction.html>)

**Bite the Ballot (**<http://bitetheballot.co.uk/>)

Bite The Ballot is a party-neutral, youth democracy movement whose mission is to register and empower young voters. They offer a ‘Democracy Day’ for schools and community groups. They also run an annual campaign on National Voter Registration Day to encourage and register young people to vote

**The League of Young Voters (British Youth Council) (**<http://www.leagueofyoungvoters.co.uk/>)

The League of young voters UK was formed in 2014 to address the challenge that not enough young people are registering and voting in the UK.

The **Discovering Democracy Award** is an award for secondary schools that create a positive culture of citizenship and democracy, and help develop youth participation in society. Funded by Cabinet Office and supported by HM Government. The award celebrates and shares the success of schools that go further in equipping their students with the skills and knowledge to play a full and active part in society, through high quality teaching, student voice and social action projects.

Find out how to apply here: <http://www.leagueofyoungvoters.co.uk/discovering-democracy-awards/>