

MSYP Motions - SYP83

Content warning: The below policy refers directly to sexual assault, rape and the justice system.

1. Improve the procedure in schools for handling sexual assault allegations

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that Scottish schools should improve the training for teachers on how to respond to accusations of sexual assault in Scotland and all schools should be supported to conduct a review of their internal policies and procedures.

-- Individual motion by Isla Grimes MSYP

Isla said,

“This motion relates to how Scottish schools respond to allegations of sexual assault & the procedure followed. I personally feel as if schools are not correctly taught on how to follow up with victims of these assaults nor how to deal with the perpetrators due to lack of specific laws for under 16s (example) as well as over 16s of school age. It’s highly detrimental and unsafe to pupils in school who still have to sit in classes with them, and I believe action needs to be taken”.

Further reading

- Scottish Government guidance (2024): [Preventing and responding to gender based violence: a whole school framework](#)
- Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre podcast (2022): [Episode 2: Sexual Violence in Schools](#)
- NSPCC Resources on harmful sexual behaviour in schools (2025): [Resources on peer-on-peer sexual abuse in education and healthy relationships](#)

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2. Eliminate penile-only criterion from rape law

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls for the statutory definition of rape to be expanded by removing the outdated penile-penetration requirement and centring the absence of consent as its sole criterion.

-- Individual motion by Iain Pretswell MSYP

Iain said,

“This reform will promote equality by validating the experiences of male and lesbian survivors and more appropriately acknowledge the severe psychological harm of object or digital penetration”.

Further reading

- Scottish Government factsheet: [Scottish Crime Recording Standard: Crime Recording and Counting \(Sexual crimes\)](#)
- Police Scotland infographic (2021): [What is consent? Know the facts](#)
- Sexual Offences Act (2003): [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

3. Free breakfast in Scotland’s secondary schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that every school pupil in a Scottish secondary school should be entitled to a free breakfast from the school.

-- Individual motion by Emma Henderson MSYP

Emma said,

“Many young people are very happy receiving the Free Breakfast throughout the winter but were unhappy with the fact that it only happens in the Winter and not all year round. Hunger lasts all year round not just during the Wintertime. If a kid goes to breakfast on a hungry stomach, they are more likely to have lower grades in Schools and lower attendance and poor behaviour”.

Further reading

- Scottish Government press release (2025): [Free school meals expansion](#)
- Scottish Government information (2025): [Check who can get free school meals](#)
- Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition (2022): [Schools Meals Case Study: Scotland](#)

4. Improve the accessibility of car travel by ending discriminatory car insurance policies for young people

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that car insurance companies should provide more opportunities for young people to lower their car insurance as it is currently too expensive.

-- Joint motion by Alex Waterston-Law and Emily Tweddle MSYPs

Alex and Emily said,

“Following numerous consultations with our constituents, we have discovered that in addition to increased driving lesson costs, the extortionate premium of car insurance is an impossible fee to pay for many young people. This disadvantages young people, particularly in rural areas, who rely heavily on car journeys due to a lack of public transport with issues regarding education, employment, and social engagements. We believe there should be more opportunities for young people to prove their driving ability in order to reduce their premiums”.

Further reading

- Citizens Advice Bureau press release (2024): [2.6 million people don't drive as they can't afford car insurance cost](#)
- Transport Scotland statistics report (2020): [Personal and Cross-Modal Travel statistics](#)
- Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety consultation (2017): [Response to insurance costs consultation](#)

5. Tackle the concerns and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls on the Scottish government to create responsive policy to tackle the dangers of AI and acknowledge young people's fears around continued AI usage.

-- Individual motion by Skye Allan MSYP

Skye said,

“Responses to AI are still being developed and it is important young people are consulted so issues that are a high concern for this age group are addressed. While some policy frameworks hint at the possible effects of AI on the job market there is little mention of the rights of personal image or right to be forgotten. We have grown up in an era of tech and this makes us uniquely vulnerable to having our voice and image used to create scams, deep fakes or worse. This has been consistently brought up by young people in a wide range of discussions such as: GBV, environmentalism, online safety, job training... This shows a wide sense of unease and uncertainty around AI”.

Further reading

- Scottish Youth Parliament (2025): [What Is Artificial Intelligence?](#)
- The Social CTV video (2024): [Exploring Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence](#)
- BBC News article (2023): [AI anxiety and job replacement](#)

6. A universal right to youth work

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that universal youth work should be accessible and affordable to every young person in Scotland.

-- Joint motion by Aine Byers and Martha Dickie MSYPs

Aine and Martha said,

“Access to youth work and youth volunteering opportunities that offer skills should be a universal right to all young people, no matter their background. This can only be achieved if parents and carers who are financially disadvantaged do not have to pay membership fees and hidden fees (e.g. trips away and uniform). Instead, we believe youth work provision, uniformed youth organisations, and charities like Girlguiding Scotland should receive more financial support from The Scottish Government. This would ensure that there is equal access to youth work, particularly for families who are unable to financially contribute to its operation. Universal youth work supports the Scottish Government’s commitments to upholding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as Article 2 (Right to Non-discrimination), Article 15 (Right of Freedom of Association), and Article 31 (Right to Play)”.

Further reading

- Scottish Youth Parliament consultation response (2025): [SYPs response to the proposed Youth Work Bill](#)
- Scottish Youth Work Steering Group report (2023): [Impact of Universal Youth Work in Scotland](#)
- Girlguiding Scotland survey (2022): [Girls’ Attitudes Survey 2022](#)

7. Stop phone bans in schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that secondary schools should not ban the use of phones outside of class time and classroom bans should only exist if digital learning can still be accessed.

-- Individual motion by Catriona Daw MSYP

Catriona said,

“Decision makers across the country are discussing the pros and cons of school phone bans and many of these discussions take place with little to no school students present. Phones are a vital part of many young people’s everyday life, and a ban could be particularly harmful towards groups such as young carers and diabetics who rely on

these devices to help themselves and their families. There is no reason to stop students from accessing their phones during break and lunch when they can help with buying food, meeting up with friends and contacting family. It's important to note that devices can help with accessibility and widening the resources available to students".

Further reading

- BBC News article (2025): [Pupils at two Edinburgh schools will have to lock up their mobiles](#)
- STV News article (2025): [Council becomes first to blanket ban mobile phones from school classrooms](#)
- Scottish Government guidance (2024): [Mobile phones: guidance for Scotland's schools](#)

8. Young people's participation in planning and deciding the provision of technology within schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament proposes that young people are key participants in the planning and ongoing provision of technology, in support for the Scottish curriculum.

-- Joint motion by Shona Cuthbert and Tazrian Tasmiah MSYPs

Shona and Tazrian said,

"This issue came to our attention during an investigation into restricted iPad search terms. We understood that on Edinburgh council, there was no permanent advisory board for students for technology decisions, despite parents and teachers unions having a say. This is clearly unfair as students are the main consumers of technology, and may become a growing issue as we integrate more devices in learning. Young people must be represented!"

Further reading

- Audit Scotland briefing (2025): [Additional support for learning](#)
- NSPCC factsheet (2024): [Online safety \(e-safety\) and schools](#)
- Scottish Government report (2016): [Enhancing Learning and Teaching Through the Use of Digital Technology: A Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland](#)

9. Education on the impact and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for young people

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls for young people to be educated on how artificial intelligence (AI) and disinformation can affect their lives, including how to identify safe, impartial and accurate information.

-- Individual motion by Jack Anderson MSYP

Jack said,

“It’s important for young people to be educated about AI as it is rapidly reshaping every part of our lives – from how we learn and work to how we communicate and make decisions. By educating young people about AI, we help ensure they’re not left behind in a world that increasingly relies on it. This ensures they have a voice in how it develops and can be used safely in education or work”.

Further reading

Children in Scotland report (2024): [Exploring children’s rights and AI](#)

Scottish Parliament report (2024): [AI in Scottish Schools - What do we know so far?](#)

UK Parliament report (2024): [Artificial intelligence: education and impacts on children and young people](#)

Content warning: The below policy refers directly to drowning and water-related fatalities.

10. Improve water-safety awareness for young people

The Scottish Youth Parliament recognises the importance of water safety education and calls for a government-recognised accessible resource designed for young people to be safe in open water.

-- Individual motion by Beth Mackay MSYP

Beth said,

“With a rise of popularity of water activities such as paddle boarding and surfing as well as open water swimming, more young people than ever are making use of our natural environment. Unfortunately, we still see a large number of water-related injury and fatalities today. According to Water Safety Scotland, in 2022 there were 45 accidental drownings in Scotland with 51% of those taking place during recreational activities. Additionally, from 2017-2021 there were 46 accidental drownings of people under 25 with 58% of them also occurring during recreational activities. In 2022 the Scottish Government released the water safety action plan to include water safety promotions with areas of a higher rate of drowning, additional funding to water safety Scotland and continued development of the national learn to swim framework to be

delivered by local authorities. However, there needs to be more encouragement for young people to be actively involved in water safety. There needs to be a resource that empowers and informs young people so they can enjoy the beautiful landscape safely”.

Further reading

- UK Parliament debate (2025): [Water Safety Education](#)
- Education Scotland (2025): [Water Safety Resources](#)
- Water Safety Scotland strategy (2018): [Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy](#)

11. Young people’s involvement in ethically managing AI-generated content

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls on the Scottish Government and Education Scotland to integrate a youth involvement scheme that equips young people with the skills they require to effectively and ethically manage AI-generated content, ensuring Scotland’s young people are integral to Scotland’s AI strategies.

-- Joint motion by Kristers Lukins and Islay Jackson MSYPs

Kristers and Islay said,

“This motion is being proposed to highlight that young people are often left out of decisions about AI in Scotland, even though it’s already affecting our lives, especially in education, future employment and online. We believe young people should have the chance to shape these policies and be supported with the skills to understand and manage AI generated content in an ethical and informed way. This could be through something like a youth panel or national consultation where our views are taken seriously. Including young people like this would help make Scotland’s approach to AI more fair, inclusive, and relevant to those it impacts most”.

Further reading

Scottish Government strategy (2025): [Scotland’s Artificial Intelligence Strategy - Trustworthy, Ethical and Inclusive](#)

OfCom report (2025): [Children’s Media Literacy Report 2025](#)

British Council video (2025): [Youth Connect - Tech for Humanity](#)

