



# **Bristol Youth Elections 2026**

## **Election Guidelines**

### **Elections for the Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC)**

### **United Kingdom Youth Parliament Members (UKYP)**

Thank you for agreeing to run the Bristol Youth Elections in your School, College or Youth Project. This guide will explain how to run a successful election. The Participation and involvement Team would like to wish you well in your election process.

Resources are available as downloads from Bristol City Council Websites. Please visit [Bristol City Youth Council election](#). If you need any further assistance with running the election please contact the Participation and Involvement team on 07780486367 or [ywparticipation@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:ywparticipation@bristol.gov.uk).

#### **1) Introduction to the Bristol Youth Elections**

From Monday 19 January to Friday 30 January 2026 young people across Bristol aged 11 to 18 will be voting to decide who will be the next the members of the Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC).

Bristol is split up into 3 geographical areas, North, South and East Central. Each area will vote and elect their Bristol City Youth Council (BCYC) representatives. Young people will be elected across the city for a 2-year term of office. The Bristol City Youth Council's aim is to represent the voices of young people of Bristol.

If young people are elected on to the Bristol City Youth Council, they will have the opportunity to stand to become a Member of UK Youth Parliament (UKYP). Four UKYP representatives will be voted in by the newly elected youth council Members. There will be an internal vote to decide who will be the UKYP representatives for Bristol.

**Nominations** for young people to apply to take part in the elections will be opened from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31 October 2025. During this time please promote this within your schools/youth organisations. Posters and candidate information pack can be found on [Bristol City Youth Council election](#)

Over the months of October – December the participation team will work with the young people by holding information evenings, creating manifestos and support them in their 1 min video. As well as finalizing polling station information with schools/ youth organisations.

Once signing up to be a polling station the participation team will make an election pack for your school/polling station which will be delivered to you in January 2026.

## **2) Election Resources**

### **a) Ballot Boxes**

You will receive a ballot box from the Participation and Involvement Team. Ballot boxes must be stored securely. Once voting starts a ballot box may not be opened. Any ballot box considered to be tampered with will be excluded from the count.

### **b) Ballot Papers**

You will receive ballot papers according to the area where your school/college/project is situated (North, East Central or South). If you are a citywide project and would like ballot papers and manifestos for all areas, please contact the Participation Team.

### **c) Candidate Manifestos**

You will receive candidate manifestos on paper and the web address for the video clips. Manifestos have the candidate's name, their key campaign points and why their peers should vote for them.

The candidate manifestos will be available during the voting period as PDFs and video clips from [Bristol City Youth Council election](#)

Polling stations should display information on all candidates in their area. If a polling station only displays certain manifestos, this will be discriminatory practice to other young people standing in the election.

### **d) Posters**

You will receive posters to help advertise the process. These are also available as a PDF on [Bristol City Youth Council election](#)

## **3) Polling Stations**

### **What is a polling station?**

For the Bristol Youth Elections a polling station is a school/ college or youth organisation working with young people. When you are registering to be a polling station this means only the young people you are working with can vote, you are not open to the public.

Only Polling Stations registered with the Participation and involvement Team will be officially counted. If other venues would like to register as a polling station, please contact the Participation and involvement Team. One person at each election venue will have overall responsibility for their election process.

## **4) Voting**

- Voting may take place at any time during the election period, Monday 19 January to Friday 30 January 2026.

- Encourage young people to consider issues each candidate is standing for.
- Each young person should be given one ballot paper on which to cast their vote. One vote per person.
- Young people aged 11 to 18 living in or attending school in Bristol are eligible to vote. Encourage all young people to vote.
- Any ballot paper with a vote for more than one young person will be considered as ‘spoilt’ and will not be counted.

### **5) Some ideas of how to run the election:**

Please use methods that suit your organisation’s routine and structure. If you would like help from the Participation and involvement Team do not hesitate to contact us.

#### **a) Schools/Colleges**

- Assembly with the candidate presentations. Young people vote after assembly.
- Incorporate with PSHE/Citizenship lesson.
- Candidate Manifesto’s shown on school TV screens throughout the week over break/lunch time. Young people encouraged to watch videos. Young people vote in tutor time.
- A team of students are given responsibility to go round to each class with the voting slips and the ballot box and collect the votes. These students could be from the school council or from 6th form.

#### **b) Youth Organisations and Clubs**

- Candidate Manifesto’s shown on TV screens/laptops/pads throughout the week and/or Candidate Manifestoes are displayed on notice board. We would suggest once a young person has voted, they are ticked off on the attendance/night sheet.
- Run an election evening. Advertise the night that young people will be able to vote. Run activities based on democracy, please contact the participation and involvement team for suggestions or support.

### **6) Delivery & Collection of Resources before and after voting.**

Please see below dates of when your resources will be delivered and collected.

**Delivery of resources:** Week Commencing Monday 12 January 2026.

**Collection of ballot box:** Week Commencing Monday 2 February 2026.

It is really important unused ballots are returned as they are used for validation of the votes counted.

### **7) Election Count and Announcements**

The elections are delivered in partnership Bristol City Council Staff, volunteers and Bristol City Council Democratic Services who oversee the election count. The Count and announcements will be made on Friday 13 February 2026 at City Hall. Follow us on Instagram to get live results!

Instagram: @bristolcityyouthcouncil

## 8) Key Dates

- **Monday 3 November 2025:** Deadline for registering as a polling station.
- **Week commencing 12 January 2026:** Delivery of resources: ballot box, ballot papers & manifestos.
- **19 to 30 January 2026:** Bristol Youth Elections Voting period – Registered polling stations take part in voting
- **Week commencing 2 February 2026:** Collection of Ballot boxes and papers (including unused papers) from polling stations
- **Monday 9 February 2026:** Election Count Week
- **Friday 13 February 2026:** Election Announcements at City Hall