

A Youth Manifesto
for the Covid Recovery

OUR
FUTURE.
UNLIMITED



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



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It's time to listen to young people. Really listen. As decisions are being made about the Covid recovery that will define all of our futures, we need to hear what the next generation needs and wants most.

To start the conversation, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) collaborated with young people to develop policy ideas that could help them live without limits as we recover from the pandemic and asked two thousand young people to vote on these changes. The result? Big issues and big ideas, on subjects from the environment to mental health to equality.

Those ideas are here. And we're now calling on everyone – particularly our politicians, business leaders, decision and culture-makers – to study this manifesto, to talk directly to young people to better understand their needs and to do all they can to act on them.

“
We need to be heard because our opinions matter. We have good ideas and others could benefit from listening.”

DofE Youth Ambassador, Hana

75%

of 14–24 year olds feel politicians rarely listen to the views of young people if at all.

86%

of young people say they rarely or never see people under 30 in positions of power.

4 in 10

young people are more interested in politics now than before the pandemic.

What young people want to see change:

	Policy 1	Policy 2	Policy 3
Education	Increasing additional funding to schools to help young people from economically deprived areas succeed at school	Providing compensation to university students whose studies have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic	School ratings and inspections to be based equally on student wellbeing and academic achievement
Environment & climate change	Increasing investigation and penalties for companies whose activities pollute the air, soil or water in the UK and internationally	Investing in greater use of renewable energy	Requiring all national and local policy making to take account of environmental concerns and climate change
Employment & training	Introducing a 'living wage' for people aged under 23	Making education on careers, financial planning and employment compulsory in schools	Encouraging employers to work with schools and colleges to create more work experience and mentoring opportunities
Health & well-being	Providing more specialist mental health support in schools/colleges/universities	Increasing access to nutritious and affordable meals and snacks in schools, colleges, and universities	Making sexual health advice and screening more easily accessible to young people
Social justice & inequality	Free schools meals to continue during school holidays	Putting in place stronger laws, rules and practices to prevent discrimination on the basis of identity or characteristics (e.g. age, ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability, religion or belief, partnership status)	Increasing benefits available to young people living in poverty, including those who are unemployed, seeking work or experiencing in-work poverty
Politics, public life & decision-making	A new "future generations" law that would require the government to take into account the impact of future generations on proposed laws	Making education on our political and legal system and human rights compulsory in schools	Putting in place stronger laws, rules and practices to address prejudice, discrimination and inequalities in public life
Stronger communities	Increasing government funding for youth clubs, social and community groups	Investing in programmes to address youth loneliness and isolation	Allowing involvement in volunteering or social action to contribute towards formal qualifications or training



As we rethink and rebuild after the covid crisis, this is the time to tackle the things that stand in young peoples' way. This is the time to hit reset. This is the time to plan for an unlimited future, with young people leading the way. We must start by listening to what they have to say.

**Join the conversation.
#ListenWithoutLimits**



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This manifesto has been developed by young people working with The DofE to identify policies that they think will help them achieve the change they want to see. This process was followed by an online YouGov survey in which young people voted on the policies: total sample size was 2,091 young people aged 14–24 in the UK. Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th – 23rd April 2021.