



Over the next two weeks pupils at BLS and BL6 will be taking part in the UK's largest youth consultation where they will have the opportunity to cast their vote and have their say in issues affecting young people. This is a national programme and takes place across the UK.

What is the Mark your Mark ballot?

On the 10th November 2017, Members of UK Youth Parliament will come together to debate and decide in their House of Commons sitting the most important issue that they will campaign on for the year ahead. **They will decide this from the top 5 issues voted on by young people from across the UK from the Make Your Mark ballot.** The UK Youth Parliament is the only group other than MPs that is allowed to sit in the House of Commons.

The topics on the ballot paper were all decided by Members of Youth Parliament at the Annual Sitting in July.

As the Cheshire East Youth MP, Molly Humphries represents Cheshire East at the youth parliament and has co-ordinate this process. We at Brine Leas are proud to be supporting young people to take an active role in youth democracy.

What is the UK Youth Parliament?

Run by young people for young people, the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) provides opportunities for 11-18 year-olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. UKYP is made up of over 300 MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament), who are elected by their peers in youth elections throughout the UK. Any young person aged 11-18 can stand or vote. Once elected, MYPs organise events and projects, run campaigns and influence decision makers on the issues which matter most to young people.

The issues your child will be considering and voting for one of are as follows:

Topic
A Curriculum to prepare us for life. Schools should cover topics like finance, sex and relationship education and politics.
Votes at 16. Give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in all elections/referendums.
Protect LGBT+ People. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender+ young people deserve to be treated the same as everyone else; discrimination needs to be challenged.
Support for Young Carers. Government should increase funding to support Young Carers. Schools and youth organisations should work together better to support them.
Transport. Make public transport cheaper, better and accessible for all.
First Aid Education for All Young People. All young people should learn basic First Aid, on a regular basis, including CPR, and all schools in the UK should have a defibrillator
Mental health. Services should be improved with young people's help.
Make the invisible visible. Not all debilitating illnesses and conditions are visible eg. epilepsy, autism and diabetes can be isolating. Young people should work together to raise awareness.
Protect schools budgets from damaging cuts. Government should reverse the proposed cuts to schools so that each young person has an equal chance to succeed.
Work Experience hubs for 11-18 year olds. Knowing where to find work experience can be challenging. Government should create an online space to help young people with this.