

JERSEY

**Youth
Parliament**



LES JANNES VOUAIX

Education Reform



REPORT OCTOBER 2021



*They appreciate our youth
and offer us activities
or politics.*

Hello everyone!

We are the Jersey Youth Parliament Education Reform Campaign Group.

We aim to change the school curriculum to address the problems faced by young people living in Jersey to better reflect the needs of our modern society and the diversity of our population. Our main focus areas are:

- Educating young people so that they are prepared for living independently, post-education, and throughout their life.
- Create a more diverse, inclusive, and supportive anti-discriminatory education system especially for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Ensuring that islanders understand and respect the cultures and faiths of Jersey today as well as its history

**Meet
the
Group..**



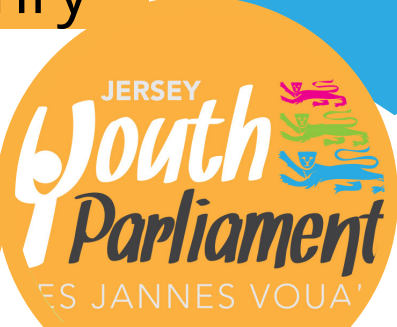
Henry



Charlie



Joel



Leo



Jenna



Maria



Edith



Vanya



Faith



Emily



Oliver



Ruby



Miha



Jemimah



Sebastian



Darius

The Education Reform Campaign







On the 8th of March 2021, the newly formed Jersey Youth Parliament voted on three campaigns to work on over the following 18 months, one of which was Education Reform.

We have many areas of interest and have focused on three key areas:

- Peer support: to create an inclusive community embracing people’s cognitive and physical differences
- Anti-Discrimination: to help Jersey’s society to become increasingly open-minded and accepting whilst challenging hate against minority communities within schools.
- Life Skills: to teach Jersey’s youth neglected essential skills and to prepare them for adulthood.

Over the past 6 months, our campaign has been working on a three-step basis: Research, deliberation and solution. Our work shows which areas we believe need attention as well as how we will target these areas.

EDUCATION REFORM CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>Exploring the current Jersey Curriculum.</p> <p>Dividing work and researching key areas; Life Skills Anti Discrimination Peer Support Support for Teachers Culture</p> <p>Visit from the scrutiny panel staff</p> <p>Met with staff from the Inclusion Project, Jersey</p>	<p>Met with the Disability Strategy Group</p> <p>Met with Liberate Jersey</p> <p>Met with staff from the Education Review following the Big Education Conversation.</p> <p>Met with staff from the and the Inclusion Review</p>	<p>Meet with Autism Jersey</p> <p>JYP Life Skills survey is open to young people until late July</p> <p>JYP Anti-Discrimination survey is open to young people until late July.</p> <p>1st Episode of Connecting Voices recorded</p> <p>Engaged with the Bridging Island Plan consultation</p>	<p>Interview Peer Support staff from Grainville School</p> <p>Questions posed to Ministers via CE&HA Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Exhibited Campaign work in the People, Power, Protest Exhibition with Jersey Heritage</p> <p>Engaged with the SOJ Police to learn about Hate Crime in Jersey</p>	<p>Connecting Voices podcast recorded to celebrate the People, Power, Protest exhibition.</p> <p>Connecting Voices podcast recorded to mark PRIDE 2021</p> <p>Team building activities</p>	<p>Review of JYP survey results</p> <p>Analysis of survey data</p> <p>Compiling case studies</p> <p>Present findings</p>
					

Summary of our work

Our Youth Parliament is made up of young people from across the island. Our varied experiences have highlighted that the current curriculum is inconsistent across all of the schools and we questioned why this is?

We met with staff from the **Education Reform** team to understand what is being done following **The Big Education Conversation**. We discussed our lived experiences and highlighted our areas of concern.

We have launched two **surveys** to find out what other young islanders think. One focused on **Life Skills** and the other on **Anti-Discrimination**. We shared these with schools and on social media and the results can be found on the following pages. These have helped us determine the focus of our campaign work.

We spoke to the **States of Jersey Police** to discover which laws protect people against discrimination. They talked to us about the different things a hate crime may be based on such as homophobia, race, faith, disability and being transgender. They also shared statistics about crimes that have been reported locally.

Whilst exploring **Life Skills** we hope that every child, at the end of their compulsory schooling is able to produce a price-efficient, quick and healthy meal; be familiar with upkeep and maintaining their own hygiene and living space; and to learn how to compile schedules, language skills, self-defence and general coordination within home and work.

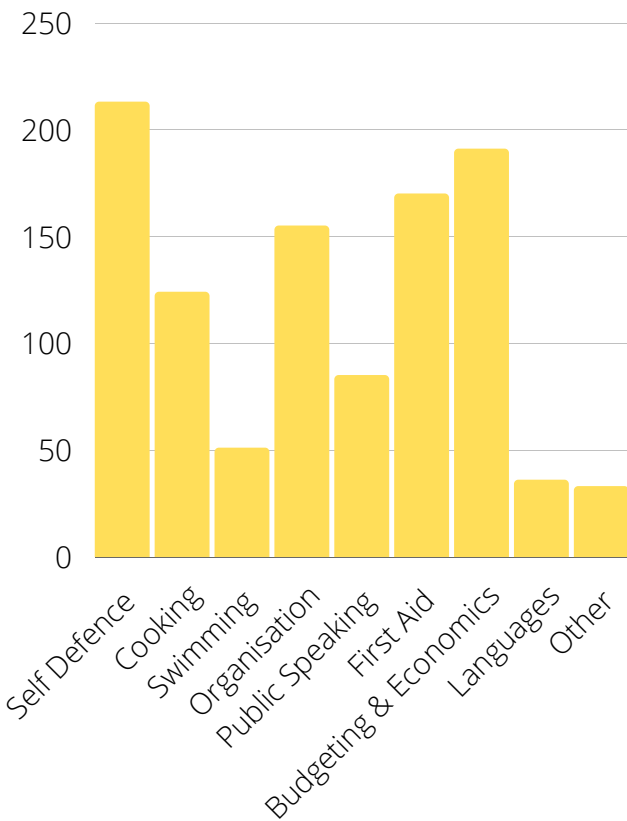
During this term we have also taken part in the **People, Power, Protest** exhibition in the Jersey Museum as well as recording episodes of **Connecting Voices**, the JYP podcast.

Members of our campaign took part in the **Island Plan Consultation**, met with staff from the **Peer Support** team at Grainville school, visited **Autism Jersey** and met with staff from the **Disability Strategy** to understand how young people can better support each other.

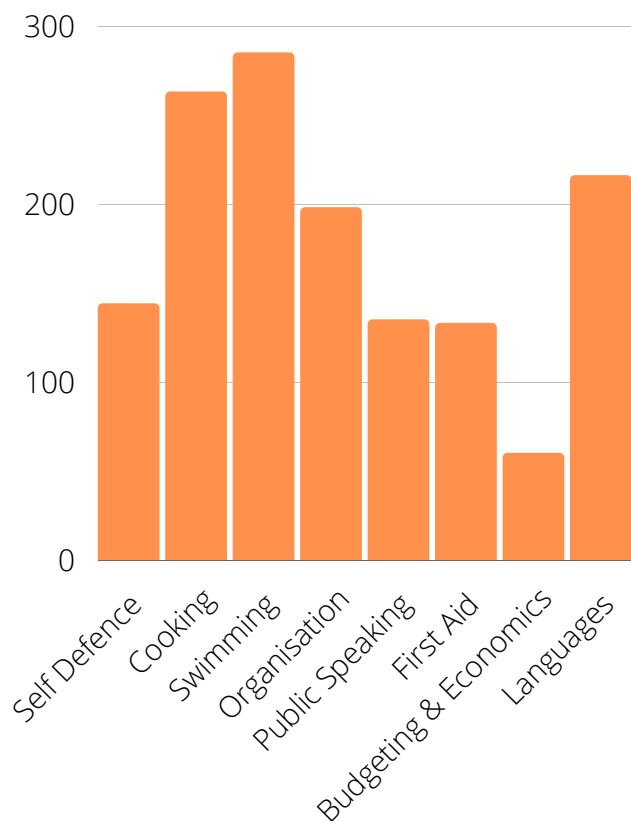
Survey Findings - Life Skills

362 participants

We asked what young people in Jersey considered to be the three most important life skills and compared this to those they already felt they had?



Skills thought to be important by participants.



Skills already acquired by participants.

Other life skills identified by participants are...

- "Survival skills..."
- "Animal management"
- "Sewing..."
- "Critical thinking skills..."
- "Other sports..."

Survey Findings - Life Skills

Participants were asked which life skills they would like to learn in school.

Real world maths
Budgeting, finance & how to pay bills
How to fill out tax forms
How to open a bank account
Learn about loans

Law
Legal documents
Politics

Negotiation
Social Skills
Confidence building
Respect for others

Public Speaking
Languages including Jerriaise
Writing CVs & Application forms
Interviews & Careers
Passing tests

Personal Hygiene
Sexual Health
Mental Health & Physical Health
Relationships & Emotional Intelligence

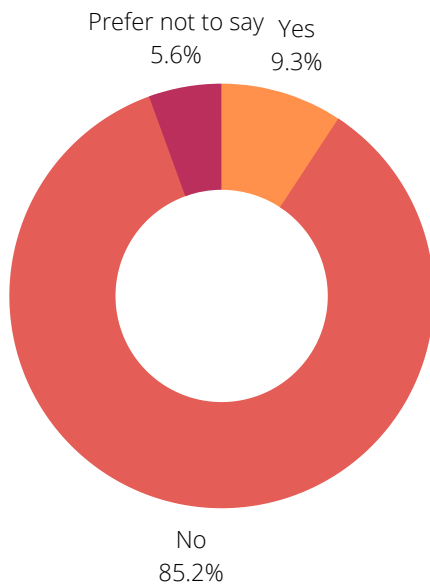
Earth Stewardship

Cooking
Tools & equipment
Housing
Mortgages

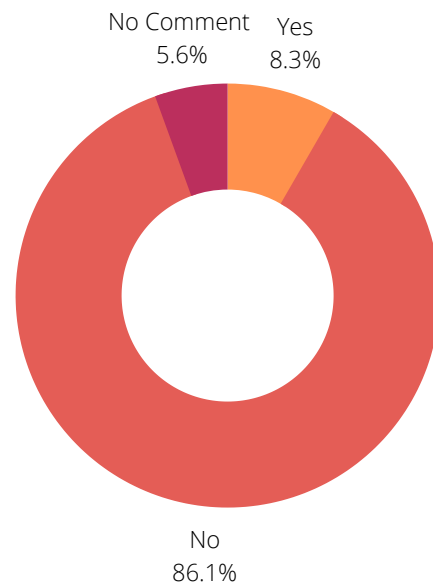
Self Defence
First Aid
Mental Health First Aid
Swimming
Survival skills

Survey Findings - Anti Discrimination

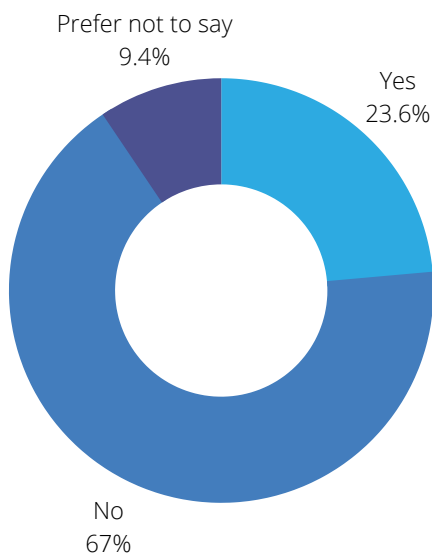
We asked young people in Jersey about their experiences of discrimination. Although the number of participants was small (n.108) we felt that the proportion to have experienced discrimination based on their protected characteristics was high and a cause for concern.



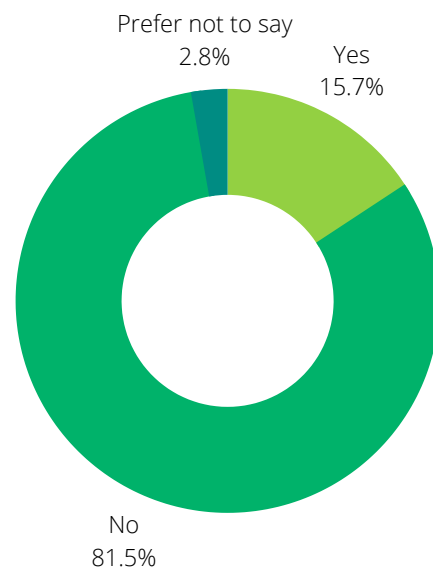
Number of survey participants with a disability.



Number of survey participants discriminated against because of their disability.

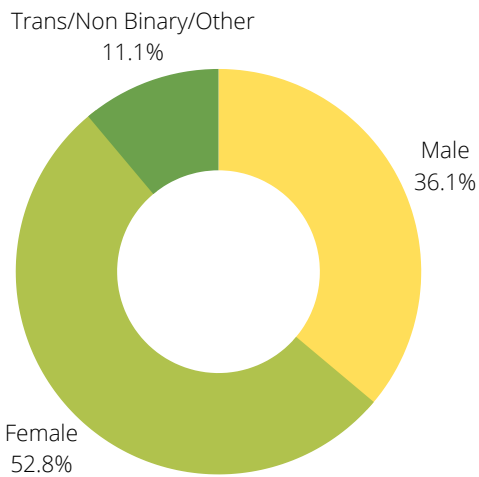


Number of survey participants (13 to 18) who had experienced discrimination based on their age.

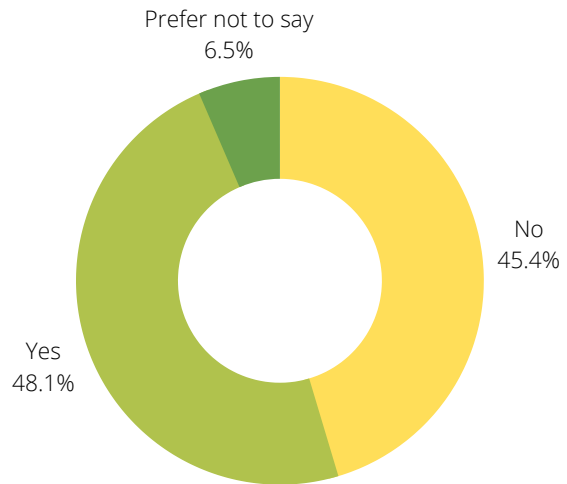


Number of survey participants who had experienced discrimination against their ethnicity.

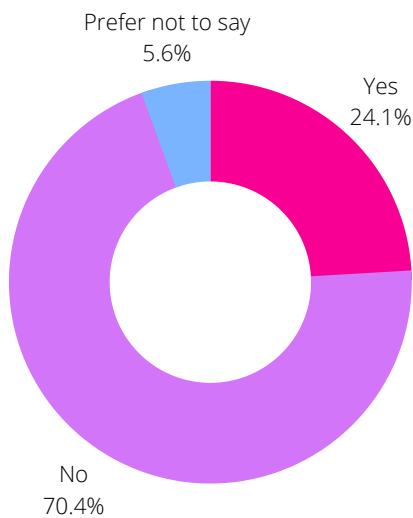
Survey Findings - Anti Discrimination



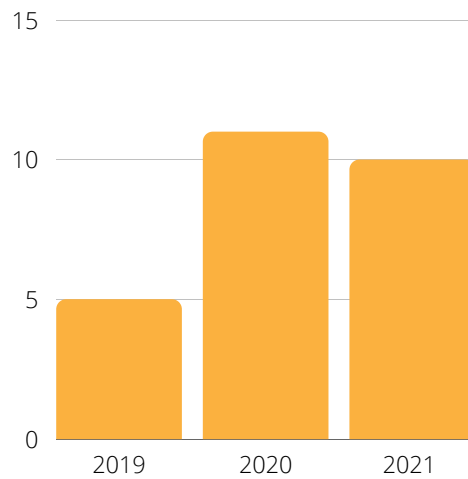
No. of survey participants based on gender.



Number of survey participants discriminated against because of their gender.



No. of survey participants discriminated against due to sexuality.



No. of hate crimes, reported to the States of Jersey Police, against under 18s.

If these figures are replicated in the whole youth population then this is a significant level of discriminatory behaviour and much of it is unreported.

Experiences of Discrimination...

Participants shared details of their experiences to give the JYP further insight.

"I have been harassed, threatened and had comments made towards me, both online and in person."

"Called [homophobic] slurs on the bus when I had a rainbow bag"

"I have been called slurs, have been mis-gendered and dead named almost every day and I get relentless bullying from students."

"Racism, being called slurs, people saying mean things"

"cleaners, poor, immigrant"

"Teachers sometimes don't respect us as we respect them because we are younger."

"Being told I can't play certain sports or do the subjects I like."

"Always called snowflakes by different generations."

Peer Support

The Jersey Youth Parliament has looked at how a peer support programme had been successfully set up in a local secondary school.

What is peer support?

Peer Support takes place when **young people support other young people** through difficult situations.

They provide **social, emotional, or practical help** to any peers who need help around school, by sharing experiences and being good role models, Peer Mentors help to problem solve and **build friendship groups** which leads to those receiving support having a **decreased sense of isolation**.

Peer Support can take a number of forms such as mentoring, listening or socialising.

Peer Mentoring can take place during lessons, at lunch time, or during form time.

Peer mentors are only asked to do things they are comfortable doing and they can ask for help any time they need it.

Peer Support Team, Grainville School

The Jersey Youth Parliament explored how this could be used as a tool to combat discrimination because it can promote inclusion and build a sense of community.

We have learnt that students who participate in Peer Support schemes can gain an ASDAN qualification and build communication skills for life.

This area of research has involved listening to the experiences of teaching staff and students who have been a part of the existing Peer Support scheme, building a case study and learning from their success.

We then asked young people if they thought the scheme might work in different learning environments as well as their experiences of discrimination.

Peer Support

2021

"I think I would do Peer Support if it was at my school. I would know what to do and be more confident to help."

2021

"Yes, its really important. I'd love to help my peers in any way. Peer support would make school a far more inclusive and understanding place. I think it is a really good initiative and should be available in all schools....training all schools would make sure everyone is equipped to respond in the best possible way. I believe Peer Support would help so many people and would be a great step forwards for inclusion in Education."

2021

"Yes, I'd definitely give it a go because I like helping people. There are some ignorant attitudes that could be tackled and its good to learn to help others and how to accommodate people better."

2021

"I have been made fun of my entire life for my anxiety, autism, adhd and depression."

2021

"I have been and still am treated like a different person since my diagnosis. I have to constantly hide my stress that is caused by my Autism to not cause trouble for myself whereas any teachers or adults should stop any and all bullying. I think Peer Support would definitely help me and many others who struggle. The biggest challenge is people not understanding and using it [Autism] as an insult. I believe Peer Support would help and I would certainly feel better

2021

"I faced quite a bit of bullying as people always saw me as a 'special kid', a weird person and would never want to be known for talking to me or hanging out with me because i was autistic and i assume they found it embarrassing for them. i was just outcasted plainly on the fact that i was autistic and i just got made fun of a lot

2021

"Peer support would help people understand how different people behave and how they understand things so they're then able to communicate. Peer Support would help communication skills but also individuals when they need help from others who understand their situation."

2021

"I think it should be compulsory through PSHE. In some situations, I wouldn't know what to do or how to handle so I think it would be really helpful. Additionally I think that training more young people would help to change the stigma and unhelpful mindset that surrounds Autism."

2021

"Peer support would be good to do because it could help a lot of people who struggle in school. I think it would encourage more people to imagine themselves in other people's shoes."

Conclusions

- Our education system is flawed. This needs to be reviewed so that young people can thrive now and as adults.
- The local education provision is not universal. The schools are all different which means that students are having different experiences
- Young people can identify the skills they have and those lacking in their education
- Young people are experiencing discrimination
- Help needs to be given to those who misinterpret the world, or behave in a discriminatory way, so that this cycle doesn't continue.
- Peer support is recognised by young people as a positive way to build a sense of community in schools, develop skills and build genuine inclusion



What we are asking the States Assembly to do...

We hope that the States Assembly will support us in our goals, and appreciate our ideas and suggestions:

- Connect the JYP to the right person in CYPES who could oversee an island-wide peer support programme in schools and allocate funding.
- Explore the current curriculum and ensure that it fully addresses life skills and anti-discrimination so that it does "prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life" as intended.
- Create an inclusive PSHE curriculum that is fit for purpose. It should be more specific, universal across schools and have more depth.
- Use education as a key tool in combatting discrimination.

We thank you for your time, and wish you will consider our propositions on increasing use of peer support, eradicating discrimination and improving education of life skills.



What do we want to do next?

- Reaching out to more young people so that the campaign is inclusive of other islanders' voice and ensure that the JYP is an accessible forum for young people
- Connect with CYPES to review the PSHE curriculum
- Learn about and raise awareness of the new Crime & Prejudice (Jersey) Law and the The Discrimination (Jersey Law 2013, so that young people do not become perpetrators of crime and know if they are victims of crime
- Encourage awareness for autism and other communication differences within the Jersey community
- Design an awareness workshop to deliver to primary schools with support from Autism Jersey
- Extend the peer support programme to a second school on the island
- Promote opportunities to learn Jèrriaise and other life skills

The Education group will continue its agenda with the aim of improving the livelihood of children across the island.



Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our thanks to the organisations and individuals who have supported us in this campaign.

Gary Burgess

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Ms Pygot, Grainville School

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Lucy Layton & Deborah, Jersey Heritage

Johnathan Williams , Education Reform

Jane Lancaster-Adlam, Inclusion Review

Debbie Reeve, IOD

Natasha Day, Island Bridging Plan

Lisa Hart, Deputy Greffier of the States

States of Jersey Police

JYP Volunteers

