

JYP LITTLE PARLIAMENT

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2023

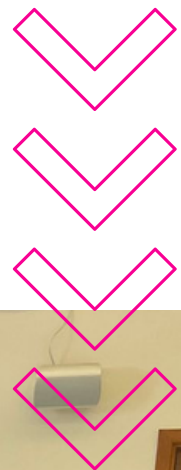
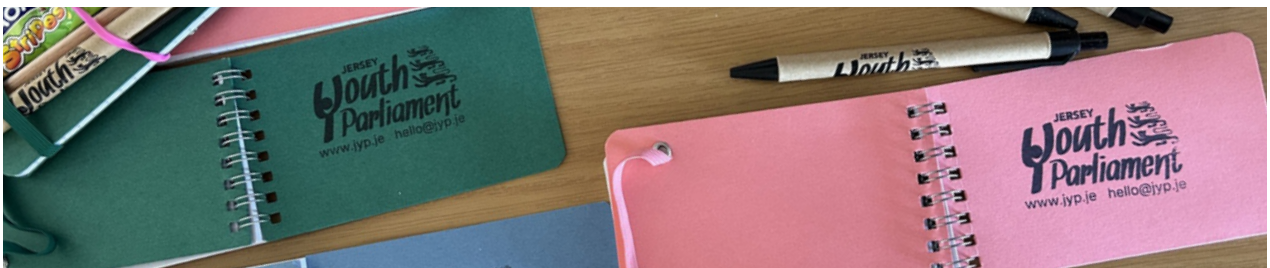


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INTRODUCTION

THE JERSEY YOUTH PARLIAMENT ORGANIZED THE 2ND ‘LITTLE PARLIAMENT’ EVENT AT CRABBE ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 2023. THE EVENT AIMED TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUGGEST CHANGES THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON THE ISLAND. **29 STUDENTS FROM 15 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS** ATTENDED THE EVENT.

Prior to the event, the students had discussions in their schools about various topics. They talked about **issues affecting young people** in Year 6, **changes they would like to see** in the island, and **what they think adults making decisions should prioritise**.

At the event, the young people fed back in groups about what they had discussed. There was a huge range of things shared. They expressed concerns about various issues, such as the need for more things to do and places to play, transport being an issue, concerns around education, the need for healthier food and more variety, care for the environment, stress from exams and homework, worries about going to secondary school, the cost of living being too high, the lack of affordable housing, and the problem of bullying in schools.

The young people also expressed their desire for adults to listen to them by doing events such as this and ensuring that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are upheld; **“The government needs to respect our rights more such as the right to learn and play because they are building more flats but less entertainment for young people”**

The ‘Little Parliament’ event provided a unique opportunity for Year 6 students to voice their concerns and suggestions for changes they would like to see on the island. The event was successful in promoting democratic values and educating the students about the importance of public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork. The feedback provided by the young people will be used to inform the work of the Jersey Youth Parliament and other decision-making bodies in the island.

CONCERNS

There were a number of key themes that kept cropping up and the young people fed back about these.

PLAY

The young people expressed a strong desire for more activities and places to go in Jersey. They talked about the need for free or affordable activities and events, and expressed disappointment over the potential closure of places like Fort Regent, Aquasplash, and the cinema. They highlighted the lack of entertainment options in the east of the island, and suggested that the government should build more entertainment venues around the island, not just in the west. Concerns were raised about the condition of certain parks, in particular the Elephant Park.

"THERE AREN'T AS MANY PLACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GO TO ENJOY THEMSELVES... THEY'RE GETTING DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR FLATS"

FOOD

The students suggested having more variety in school meals instead of the same rotation. They also proposed the use of colour-coded labels on food packaging to indicate allergens in more schools. Additionally, they raised concerns about unhealthy food being brought into schools by students.

CONCERNS

COST OF LIVING

3

The young people in year 6 expressed concerns about the rising cost of living in Jersey, particularly the increasing costs of food and bills. They also expressed their views on the unfairness of the salary differences between footballers and essential workers such as nurses, police officers, and firefighters. They discussed the impact of the war in Ukraine and Russia on the cost of school essentials such as pencils, pencil cases, and rubbers. Additionally, some students expressed concerns about not having the necessary equipment for secondary school, such as a laptop, which could make them feel excluded and unable to fit in with their peers. The students also discussed the negative effects of bullying and social pressure on those who may not have enough money for certain things, and they advocated for equal opportunities regardless of one's financial situation.

"MY FRIEND'S DAD IS A NURSE, AND HE DOESN'T GET PAID AS MUCH AS A FOOTBALLER AND HE ACTUALLY SAVES HUMANS AND I THINK THAT'S A BIT UNFAIR"

"SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD ESSENTIALS LIKE PENCILS AND PENCIL CASES AND RUBBERS"

"SOME PEOPLE GET BULLIED BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE QUITE ENOUGH MONEY FOR THINGS.. THEY SHOULD GET THE SAME OPPOTUNITIES AS SOMEONE WHO IS BETTER OFF"

CONCERNS

4

TRANSPORT

Young people discussed various ideas on transport, including the need for more walking and bike paths around the island, as well as the issue of unsafe roads due to narrow pavements and construction work. They also suggested the need for more buses to activity centers so that they don't have to rely on parents so much. There were concerns raised about safety on buses, particularly regarding older teenagers intimidating younger children and damaging their belongings.

“THERE’S TOO MUCH TRAFFIC WITH CARS AND WE THINK THAT MORE PEOPLE SHOULD BE CYCLING SO THAT’S ANOTHER REASON WE SHOULD BUILD MORE BIKE PATHS”

5

ONLINE SAFETY

The students discussed online safety and the limitations of school computers, which are programmed to block certain sites and pick up on certain keywords, which can be frustrating for students trying to research certain topics. They highlighted that while it's good to have protection, there are also downsides to the system, such as limiting their ability to learn about certain subjects and potentially getting wrongly flagged for inappropriate content.

CONCERNS

6

ENVIRONMENT

The students are concerned about the lack of green areas for children to play and the prevalence of litter and pollution in public places. They suggest planting more trees and plants in public spaces such as around schools and by the coves in town, creating nature areas in playgrounds, and educating children more about climate change. They also suggest reducing the use of pesticides and enforcing laws against littering. Finally, they express concern about the pollution on beaches and in the sea, and the potential harm it can cause.

“WE ALL THINK CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE SOMETIMES SAY A TEACHER TELLS YOU ABOUT IT AND THEY’RE LIKE OH REALLY AND THEN SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET REALLY NERVOUS. I HAD THAT FEELING AND I WAS REALLY WORRIED BECAUSE I DIDN’T KNOW THAT THE WORLD WAS CHANGING AROUND ME LIKE THIS AND SO I THINK TEACHERS SHOULD HAVE MORE WORKSHOPS AND LESSONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE SO KIDS KNOW HOW TO HELP AND KNOW WHAT IT IS, AND UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT IT”

"WE THINK EVERYTIME A BUILDER CHOPS DOWN A TREE, THEIR COMPANY SHOULD PLANT TWO MORE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE SO THAT IT WILL HELP CATCH UP ON ALL THE CHOPPED DOWN TREES”

CONCERNS

7

EDUCATION

The students suggested that schools should have more options for subjects and multilingual teachers to support those who may struggle with English. They also proposed longer school breaks and days to allow for more play time and more interactive lessons. The students expressed concern about the high cost of living on the island hindering young people's ability to pursue their desired careers. They also advocated for embracing mistakes, providing more targeted instruction for struggling students and celebrating different nationalities and languages.

“WE THINK SCHOOLS SHOULD BE HALF AN HOUR LONGER TO GIVE MORE TIME TO PLAY AND HAVE MORE FUN WITH THEIR FRIENDS AT BREAK AND LUNCHTIME”

“I FEEL LIKE AT SCHOOL DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AREN'T REALLY CELEBRATED ENOUGH”

“SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE TEACHERS WHERE THEY SPEAK MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE TROUBLE LEARNING IF THEY'RE NOT FLUENT IN ENGLISH”

CONCERNS

MOVING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

8

The young people expressed concerns about the transition to secondary school, including potential loss of friends, navigating a larger school environment, and being separated from familiar teachers. They also mentioned worries about bus rides and the possibility of getting lost on the first day of school. They suggested that schools provide maps or other resources to help students navigate the new environment.

TESTS AND HOMEWORK

9

Year 6 students feel stressed about exams and tests, particularly because of the pressure to get good grades and the cramming of lessons by teachers. They identified that this stress can affect their mental and physical health. Additionally, students feel stressed about homework, as they may be given the same work as others despite being on different levels. They suggest that teachers provide more help with homework, and even homework clubs to provide support for those who struggle with the work.

SMOKING

10

They expressed concerns about smoking in public places, particularly around parks and green areas where children go to play. They also mentioned feeling uncomfortable when they see teenagers vaping or smoking, and adults smoking in children's parks. They suggested that smoking should be banned in these areas to protect children's health.

CONCERNS

11

HOSPITAL

Regarding the hospital, they shared concerns about the pressure that staff are under and the need for more healthcare for children. They suggested that a children's hospital would be helpful in relieving some of the pressure on the main hospital. They also thought that the hospital could be made more welcoming and child-friendly to help alleviate some of the stress and anxiety that children may feel when they are there.



12

BULLYING

The students discussed the serious problem of bullying in schools, including different types such as cyberbullying, mental and physical bullying. They suggested implementing a system to stop bullying in every school in Jersey and beyond to end the daily struggles some people go through. The students also identified bullying and cyberbullying as reasons why year 6 students may be struggling. They mentioned peer pressure as a problem in some schools, with some kids not being as confident as others and being taken advantage of. The students suggested that teachers should teach bullies in a more supportive way, as they may have underlying issues causing them to bully.

CONCERNS

13

HOUSING

The students expressed concern about the rising cost of housing and cost of living in Jersey, which is making it difficult for people to afford to live in Jersey, even if they want to. They feel that there are too many built-up areas with apartments and commercial buildings and not enough schools, fields, sports centres, and entertainment. They suggest that the government could build more houses instead of flats or use derelict houses in town. The students also mentioned that the high cost of housing is affecting people's ability to follow their careers, as they may need to leave the island to find affordable housing.

"SOON THE ISLAND WILL JUST BE A WHOLE ISLAND OF APARTMENTS, NO FIELDS, JUST APARTMENTS"

"THE PRICES OF HOUSES AND COST OF LIVING IN JERSEY IS RISING VERY VERY FAST AND THAT'S WORRYING FOR PEOPLE BECAUSE LOTS OF PEOPLE ONCE THEY HAVE GONE TO UNIVERSITY WANT TO COME BACK TO JERSEY AND MAKE THEIR LIVES IN JERSEY, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE SORT OF PUSHING THEM OUT AND MAKE THEM GO TO OTHER PLACES"

"MOST PEOPLE IN OUR YEAR THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO LEAVE THE ISLAND LATER ON"

RECOMMENDATIONS

Thinking about the year 6's concerns, there are a number of things that the island can do to improve the quality of life for these young people.

1

PLAY

- The Government should prioritise building affordable entertainment venues around the island, including in the east of the island
- The condition of existing facilities should be improved, and regular maintenance should be carried out to ensure they are clean and safe
- The cinema and Aqua splash should not be closed down until replacement facilities are built
- Young people should be involved in the new 'play' strategy
- Young people are invited to contribute to the Youth Parliament 'Right to Play' campaign

2

FOOD

- Schools should provide more variety in school meals, perhaps the students could help design the meals
- Measures should be taken to discourage students from bringing unhealthy food into schools
- Parents may need to be educated on this

3

COST OF LIVING

- GST removed on essential school items
- Second hand school supplies sale before the start of a new term

RECOMMENDATIONS

4

TRANSPORT

- The Government should invest in building more walking and bike paths around the island and ensure that pavements are wide enough for pedestrians
- Better education for car users to ensure that young people feel safe if on a bike
- A review of bus routes to ensure that there are adequate buses to young people hot spots

5

ONLINE SAFETY

- Schools should review their computer protection systems to ensure that they are not too restrictive, and that students are able to access information relevant to their studies.
- Students should be provided with guidance on online safety, including how to protect their personal information and how to recognize and avoid online threats.

6

ENVIRONMENT

- The Government and parishes should prioritise creating more green areas in public spaces and planting more trees and plants.
- Nature areas should be created in playgrounds to encourage children to learn about and appreciate nature.
- Education about climate change should be incorporated into the school curriculum.
- Laws against littering should be more strictly enforced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7

EDUCATION

- Students should be made more aware of future opportunities available to them as some suggested a university should be built but there already is degree courses on offer
- Schools should have multi-lingual staff and different languages celebrated
- School playing fields should open after school hours to encourage free play

8

MOVING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

- Youth clubs should run year 6 and 7 mixed evenings to enable young people to make friends with students in the year above
- School to have past students in to reassure year 6's
- Youth workers to attend transition days in all schools to provide support
- Schools to provide maps to all students before their first day to allow themselves to familiarise themselves with the buildings

RECOMMENDATIONS

9 TESTS AND HOMEWORK

- Teachers and schools should be better supported to help them manage the pressure on students during exams and tests. This could include additional resources, training, or support staff.
- The Government should promote mental health awareness in schools and provide additional resources for students who need help managing stress and anxiety
- The Government should also consider investing in more extra-curricular activities for students, such as sports clubs or arts programs, which can help to reduce stress and improve mental health, along with homework clubs for those struggling to do it at home.

10 SMOKING

- Smoking to be banned in public play areas, instill designated smoking areas away from playgrounds
- Increase public awareness campaigns to educate people about the harmful effects of second hand smoke

11 HOSPITAL

- Improve the aesthetics of the hospital environment to create a more welcoming and less intimidating atmosphere, especially for children. This could include murals, artwork, and other forms of decor created by young people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12 BULLYING

- Develop and implement a comprehensive anti-bullying policy for CYPES that covers all types of bullying, including physical, verbal, and cyberbullying. The policy should be regularly reviewed and updated, and should include guidelines on how to identify and report bullying, consequences for bullies, and support for victims
- Work with parents and the community to raise awareness about bullying with regards to both the victim and the bully
- Encourage open communication: Encouraging students to talk openly about bullying can help identify problem areas and provide support for victims. The government can work with schools to create a safe space where students can talk openly about their experiences.
- Provide support and additional training for teachers and staff on how to identify and prevent bullying, and how to intervene.

13 HOUSING

- Increase the availability of affordable housing: The government could work towards increasing the supply of affordable housing, such as through subsidising new housing developments or incentivising developers to build more affordable homes.
- Focus on building more houses, not just flats: As suggested by the group, the government could look at building more houses rather than just apartments, which would provide more options for families and help to reduce the density of the built-up areas.
- Utilise existing derelict houses
- Address the gap between house prices and wages

HIGHLIGHTS

Following on from the group discussions, the young people then voted on the issues that they would like to focus on in the afternoon. The three most popular topics were the cost of living, the environment and play.

They young people got into groups to further their discussions around these three issues and created a video which can be viewed on the Jersey Youth Parliament YouTube Channel.

COST OF LIVING



House prices and commodities are going up



Wages do not match the price increase



People cannot afford basic things and children are getting worried

ENVIRONMENT



Too many trees are getting cut down, this needs to stop



There is a lot of pollution on land and in the sea



The use of pesticides should stop

PLAY



More places for ages 10-18 to play



More green spaces to play



Opportunities to create new memories

CALL OF LIVING

The 'Call of Living' campaign wanted to highlight the **cost of living crisis**. They created a logo that showcased a house, food and money with a telephone on.

The group were really concerned about the prices of things going up and wages not. They felt that people could not afford basic things such as food and water, and that people were being driven out of their homes. All of this was making children worried.



CALL OF LIVING



Dear States Assembly,

We want to campaign about the cost of living, because we think it's unfair and expensive. The pandemic caused it to increase so why won't it stop or decrease as the cases decrease?

It has appeared that many have been affected by this crisis, including families, children and elders. It is driving people out of homes and Jersey could end up abandoned in the near future.

Prices are going up, wages aren't. Families are cincerend which is havinga negative impact on children's mental health, We awant lower prices!

You are uping prices, how does that help the island as a whole? Where's the money going? To the Government.

Your Sinceley

The Call of living campaign

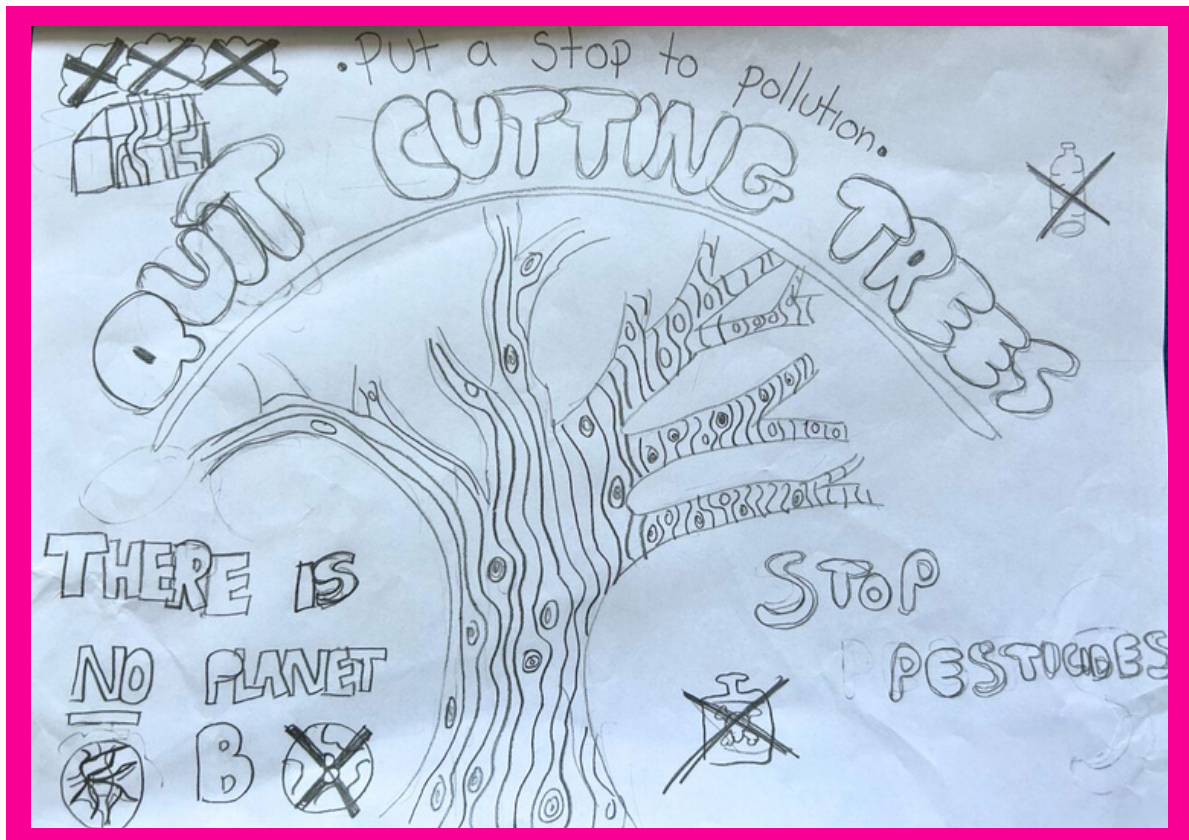
THE YOUNG PEOPLE WROTE A LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE STATES ASSEMBLY, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONCERNS

ECO-EAGLES

The Eco-Eagles campaign wanted to highlight that the **environment counts**. They created a logo that had the world with eagle wings wrapped around it.

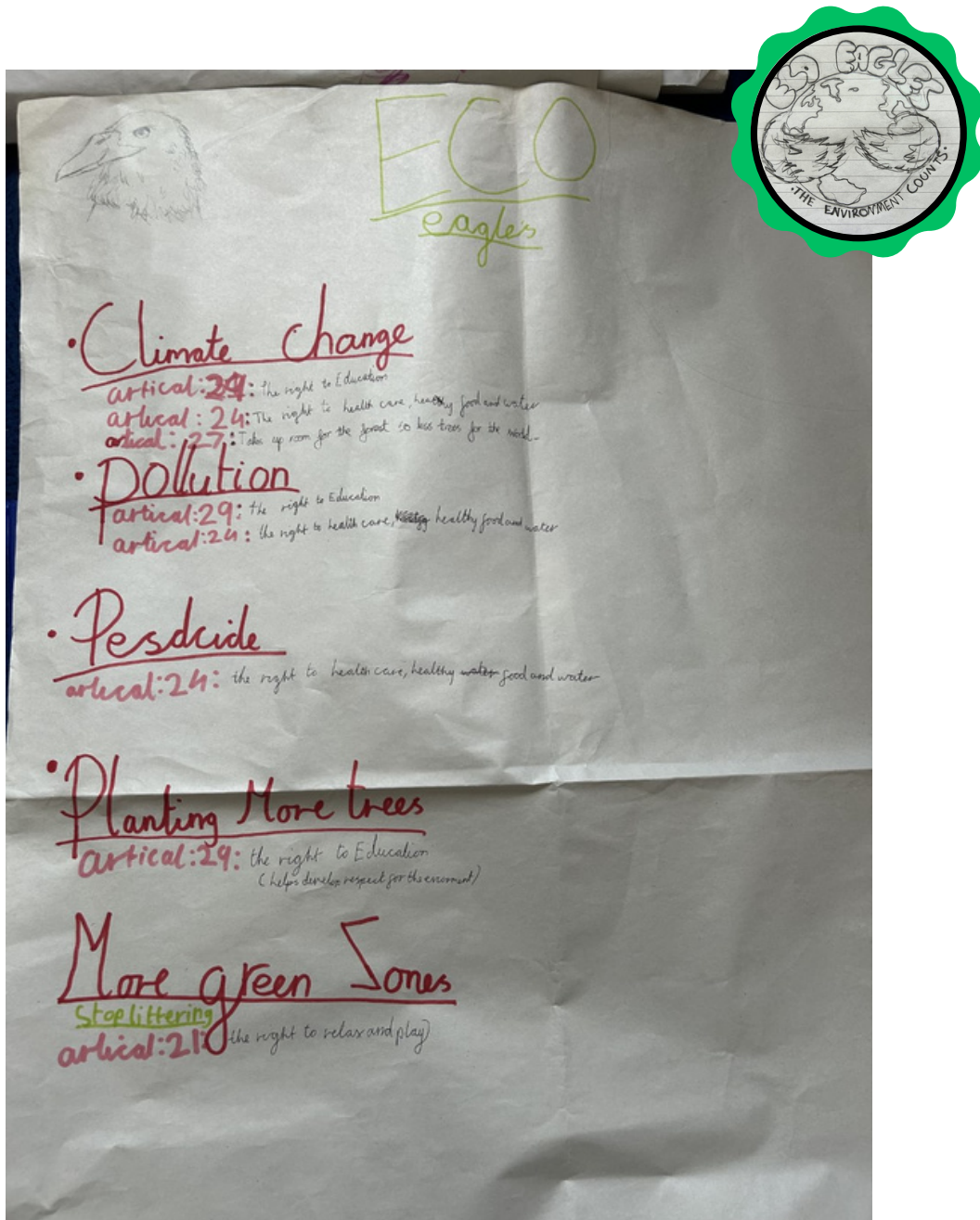
The group were really concerned about pollution, the amount of trees being cut down and wanted the use of pesticides to stop.

They highlight that **"There is no Planet B"**



ECO-EAGLES

The group had a read through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and felt that the environmental concerns that they had were affecting their rights. They identified the key rights that were impacted below.



ECO-EAGLES



Dear States E.ssembly,

We think that we need to start being more cautious towards our environment and be aware how much destruction were causing.

If you cut down a tree we think that you should atleast plant two in it's place other wise eventually there may be no more trees in Jersey.

When farmers plant pesticides on their field the animals and insect near can be harmed this needs to stop.

There are several more such as:

- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Green Zones

Though there are few all of these effect and would our earth.

32 other people agree and support this letter

Yoursincerely the Eco eagles

THE YOUNG PEOPLE WROTE A LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE STATES ASSEMBLY, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONCERNS

ECO-EAGLES



ECO-EAGLES PETITION

We think as the eco-eagles that the environment is a very big cause and needs to stop as it will only get worse because of us there are trash islands the size of Texas if you sign we can warn the goverment before its to late
Will you sign
Thank you to everyone that signed.

Sign here ↓

Amber	tebor
Torin	nikolay
Anika	re
Rosina	Elit
Sophie	Amelia
storm	Noah
elcom	Alice
Guilloco	ste
Henry	Archie
Max	Stacy Benstead
JJ	Manak
Bylannon	Hedley
Mahida	maria
Frankly	curiora
Massemer	
Lucca	
Josh	
labi	

AND THEY GOT OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO SIGN THE PETITION.

LIVE TO PLAY TODAY

This groups campaign is about having **more places and things for kids** and children to play with and having **happy memories**.

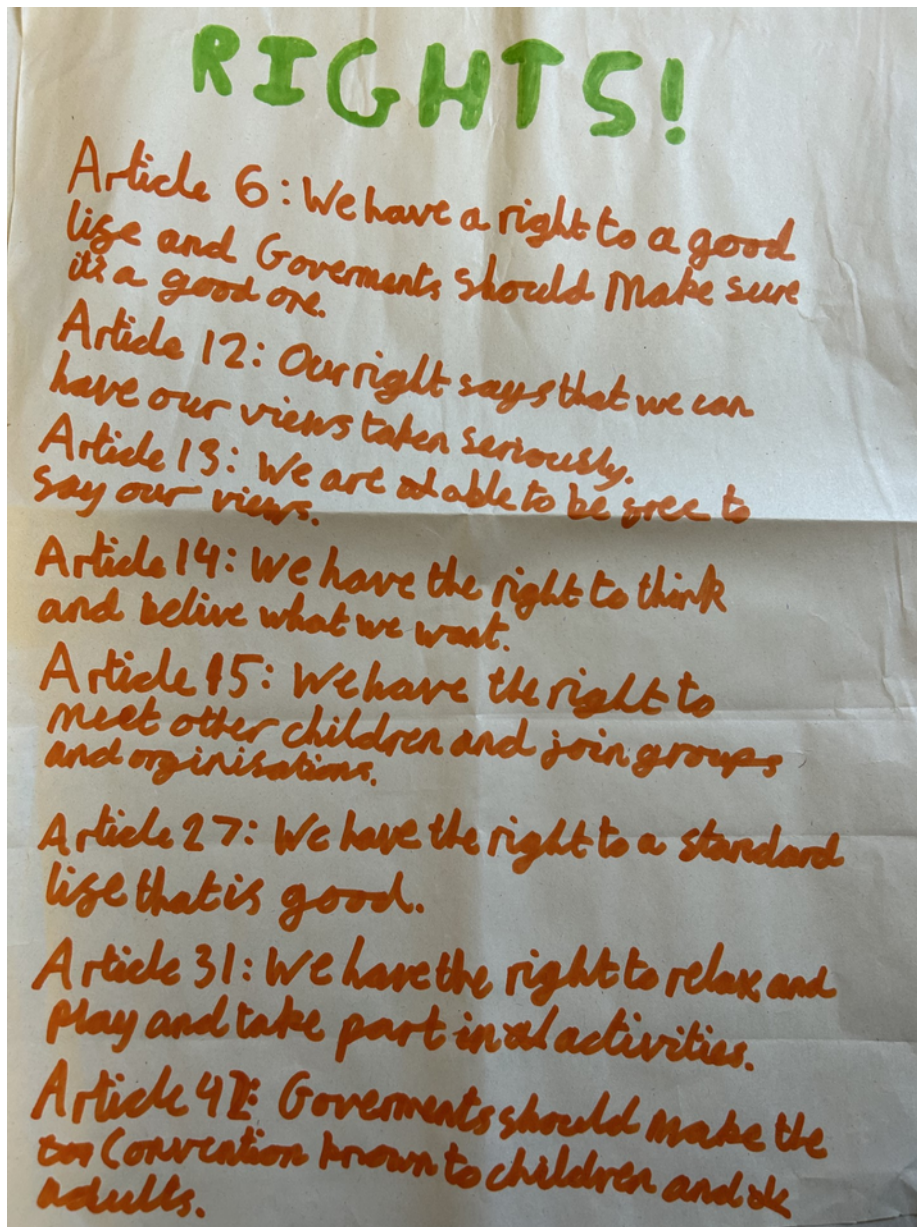
The group identified things that they felt was needed on the island:

- More green areas
- New experiences
- More places to enjoy
- Stop closure of entertainment
- More entertainment for everyone
- Entertainment for kids 10-14

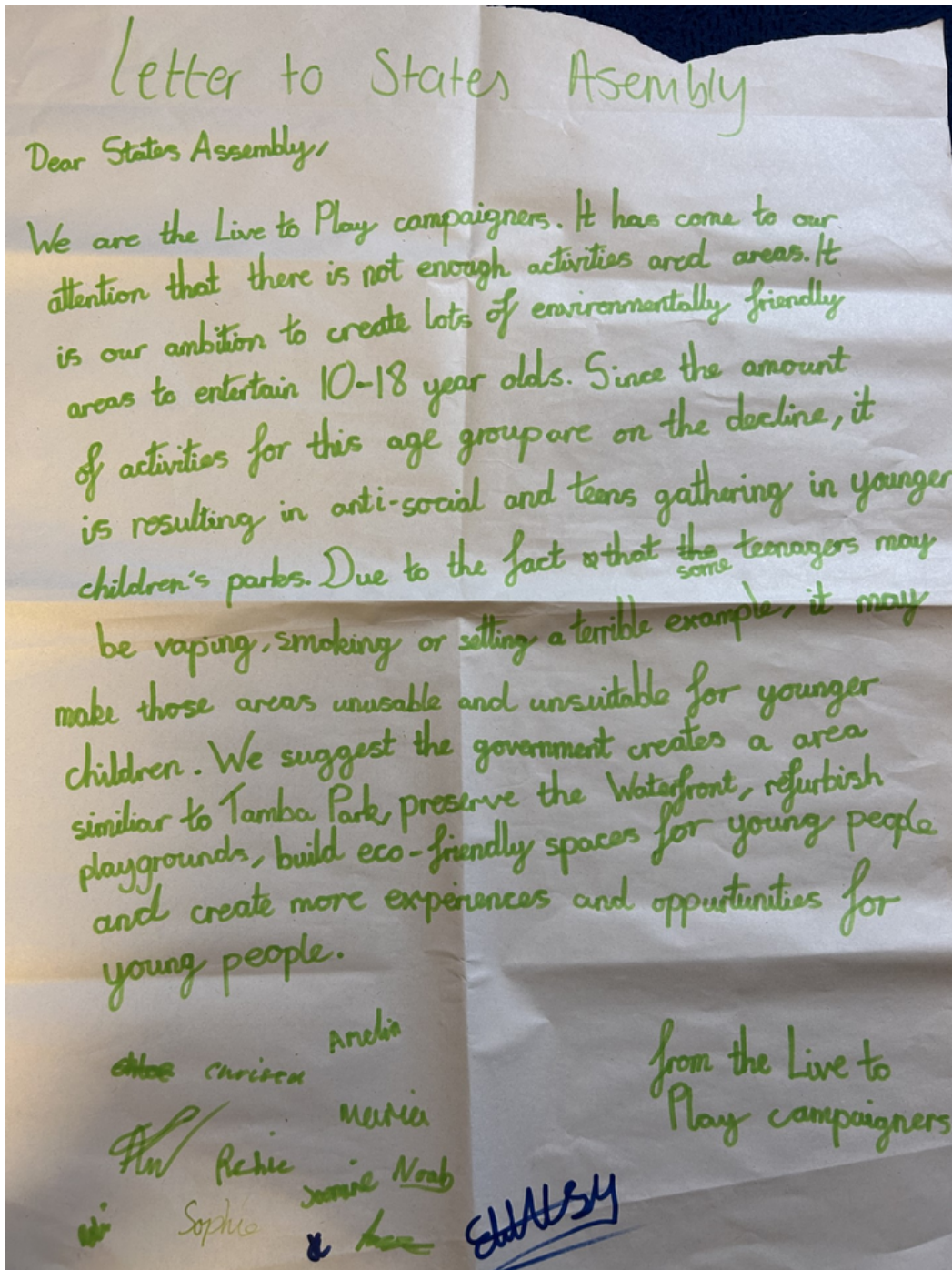


LIVE TO PLAY TODAY

The group had a read through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and felt that the Government failing to act on creating more safe spaces to play would compromise their rights. They identified the key rights that were not being met below.



LIVE TO PLAY TODAY



THE YOUNG PEOPLE WROTE A LETTER, ADDRESSED TO THE STATES ASSEMBLY, HIGHLIGHTING THEIR CONCERNS AND GOT OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO SIGN IT.

REFLECTIONS

The young people were asked to identify how they felt at the beginning and end of the day using emoji's. Some of the feedback received is below.



Start of the Day

Feeling nervous and excited

Feeling excited to meet people from other schools

Happy because I am here

This is cool because I have never done this before

I feel nervous and shy about today

I feel good because I am excited to share ideas

Excited to be here

I feel a bit awkward because I only know two people

I am feeling really happy as I have been waiting for this a long time and it is really interesting

I am feeling excited and I think that this is a good opportunity to speak all about things that are good and what things need changing



End of the Day

Found this really fun

Excited

Really happy because it was much fun

Cool

I just had a good time – it was amazing

I feel so excited and wish it didn't end because it was so fun – I hope there is a next time.

Joyful and proud of my work

I feel cheerful

I feel really happy that I did this but super sad that it has ended

I am very happy about how today went and I had lots of fun – I feel this was a great opportunity for me and all the others – thank you!



CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A LOT OF WORRIES ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE ISLAND AND YEAR 6 IS A CHALLENGING TIME FOR THEM AS THEY PREPARE TO TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL. TO ENSURE THERE CONCERNS ARE HEARD, JYP STAFF PLAN TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

STEP 1

- Set up weekly focused 'Little Parliament' meetings to keep the conversation going

STEP 2

- Share this report with the States Assembly and Government of Jersey officials

STEP 3

- Put together a video of the event that can be shared on social media

Building upon the success of the previous two years events, the 'Little Parliament' is set to establish itself as an **annual gathering for year 6** students. We hope to continue to **inspire young minds** and **empower them** to raise their voices on the island, as well as **foster a culture where adults listen** to the concerns and worries of our youth. We look forward to 2024!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS FOR SHOWING UP WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT:

Bel Royal, Grouville, Jersey College Prep, Les landes, Rouge Bouillion, Samares, St Clement's, St Martin's, St Mary's, Trinity, Victoria College Prep, Beaulieu, De La Salle, Plat Douet and St John's



AND THANK YOU TO THE JYP YOUNG WORKERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN RUNNING THE DAY!

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