



Code of Conduct for MSYPs

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (hereafter referred to as MSYPs) are accountable to the Youth Parliament for their actions and represent that body at all times. Therefore, MSYPs are required to read, agree with and sign this code of conduct, and to act in accordance with it.

Below are the SYP's CORE values

Commitment

All MSYPs shall be committed to the organisation. MSYPs are expected to attend all Sittings, Annual General Meetings, and any Extraordinary General Meetings, subject to the appropriate notification, set out in the governing documents of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

If a MSYP misses two consecutive full parliamentary meetings, he or she shall be required to offer an explanation to the SYP Chair. The Chair shall do all he or she can to ensure that the members feels able to attend further meetings but shall also be able to propose that the MSYP resign from the organisation.

MSYPs are asked to play a full and active part at those meetings, and may from time to time have the opportunity to represent the organisation at other SYP events, at other affiliated organisations' events and meetings and at relevant conferences, festivals and forums. When an MSYP cannot attend a meeting he or she should make every effort to give his or her apologies.

Ownership

The SYP will belong to **all young people of Scotland** and shall be developed in their best interests by their representatives.

Respect

Every member of the SYP will respect **all other MSYPs and persons with whom they come into contact** as a result of their activities as MSYPs.



Equality

The SYP remain fierce advocates for diversity, tolerance and non-discrimination and all MSYPs shall seek at all times to make the SYP as inclusive a body as possible; in taking decisions MSYPs shall always be mindful of the need to remove barriers to involvement, whether actual or perceived..

As well as our CORE values, MSYPs are also required to read, agree with and sign up to abide by the following:

Internal Policies

MSYPs should familiarise themselves with all the internal policies of the organisation, and abide by each one, in particular the Child Protection policy and Drug & Alcohol policy. Failure to comply with these policies or a member being found in breach of such policies may lead to disciplinary action.

Political affiliation

The Scottish Youth Parliament is a non-party-political organisation. MSYPs are expected to remain free from any party-political influence whilst representing their constituents and evidence of a breach of this principle will result in disciplinary action.

Openness and Collective Responsibility

All MSYPs shall undertake their role in as open a manner as possible whilst recognising that they are collectively responsible for the decisions and policy that the organisation makes.

Accountability

All MSYPs are accountable to the Parliament itself. MSYPs shall seek to work in the best interests of the organisation and shall identify any conflict of his or her interests that may arise.

Social networking sites

MSYPs are accountable to the Youth Parliament for their actions and represent that body at all times. Using social networking sites (such as Facebook, Bebo and Twitter) is no different during the course of their duties.



- **What goes online stays online.** Don't say anything or publish pictures that might cause you or the organisation embarrassment later.
- **Don't forget that your profile and forums are public spaces.** Don't post anything you wouldn't want the world to know.
- **Harassment, hate speech and inappropriate content should be reported.** If you feel someone's behaviour is inappropriate, react. Report this to SYP Management team immediately.
- **Don't post anything that would embarrass you later or expose you to danger.**

Media

The SYP has strict guidelines with regards to media contact.

SYP realise and appreciate that during the course of their work, MSYPs may be contacted from time to time by the media or may wish to promote work they have been doing to the media. Developing good working relationships with local media is always a good thing as this is very helpful to get your message across and influence decision makers. The SYP has experienced staff that may be able to help you and welcome you to get in touch to let us know what has been going on in your local area and sending clippings. This helps us with our reporting to the Scottish Government and develops case studies.

However, **MSYPs are prohibited from providing any comment to the media in relation to the organisation or comment on any other MSYP.** This can lead to confusion and inaccurate reporting and place the organisation in a high risk situation and unable to protect the privacy of others.

Any member approached by the media on any matter connected to the organisation or affecting another member should immediately contact the office or refer them to our media liaison (www.syp.org.uk/contact-us/media-information.htm) before providing any comment. Any member in breach of this, will face disciplinary action.

SYP Sitings

The SYP organise up to 4 sittings per year. To ensure that the sitting is productive, successful and fun, the support of each young person is paramount.

The following sets out some ground rules for all MSYPs attending Sitings of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

1. All young people attending the Sitting are expected to attend the Sitting with a local support youth worker and be registered by them to attend.



Any young person attending the sitting under the age of 18 should be accompanied by a support worker. Young people over the age of 18, can attend a Sitting without a support worker but must have permission from their support worker to do so. The SYP does not have the resources to take on additional care responsibilities and failure to comply with this may result in being sent home.

2. Always participate fully in the sitting agenda, whether this is debates, workshops or training, have fun
3. Always respect the private space of others
4. Listen to others actively and with sensitivity
5. No alcohol at any time, this includes the purchase or supply of alcohol at any point during the sitting weekend
6. No illegal drugs or drug abuse at any time
7. No smoking inside any buildings
8. No violent behaviour, physical or verbal abuse to others.
9. No sexist and/or racist attacks or comments to others.
10. Let staff know about anything that is putting the well-being of you or others at risk.
11. Never put yourself or others in danger emotional or physical harm

I hereby agree to adhere to this code of conduct, to the policies and procedures mentioned in it and understand that any breach of this code of conduct could result in disciplinary action, including, in serious cases, removal as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Name: Date:

Signature: