



The British Youth Council on the Education and Skills Bill



About Us

The British Youth Council (BYC) is the national youth council of the United Kingdom. We represent a unique coalition of young people who've joined together through national, regional and/or local youth organisations. Our membership and network numbers includes over 170 organisations and 400 youth councils. BYC promotes the active citizenship of young people and works to ensure that they are more involved in decisions about their lives.

Education is a key issue for young people within our organisation. Our policy on this Bill is being continually informed by our members and we continue to encourage young people to comment on our policy. Young people can influence our 'Rolling Youth Manifesto' online by taking part in our Raising Expectations Survey and completing a 'Have your say' section online.

Summary.

- 1.1. BYC believes that there should be a removal of the clauses within the Education and Skills Bill which impose penalty fines on young people if they do not participate (clauses 45 to 47).**
- 1.2. The offence of not complying with an attendance notice must not be regarded as a recordable offence under the National Police Records and result in young people getting a criminal record (clause 45).**
- 1.3. There should be an amendment to the National Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 (regulation 12) to remove the exemption of young people under 19 in apprenticeships.**

Don't force us, inspire us.

- 1.4.** BYC supports the motivation behind the Education and Skills Bill to see an extension of educational opportunity to all young people and improvement of support measures to young people in education. However, we wish to voice strong concerns about the use of compulsion to ensure young people remain in education or training until they are 18.
- 1.5.** If criminalising measures are enforced on those who do not participate in education or training this will have the effect of further alienating young people who are already struggling within the education system. These young people will need the utmost support and motivation to engage, not the threat of penalty fines, potential spiralling debt and a criminal record.
- 1.6.** BYC strongly opposes the fact that young people could receive a criminal record from not fulfilling the duty to participate as this is an enforcement procedure that will criminalise young people for the rest of their lives.
- 1.7.** Instead of removing rights from young people efforts should be focused on improving the pre-16 education system to enable and motivate more young people self-elect to stay on in the learning process and achieve Level 2 qualifications.

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