

Youth Voice through Informal Education



Meeting on
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Informal Education

“A spontaneous process of helping people to learn.

Informal education works through conversation, and the exploration and enlargement of experience.

It's purpose is to cultivate communities, associations and relationships that make for human flourishing.”

www.Infed.org: **Tony Jeffs and Mark K Smith**

Topics that overlap with Formal Education

Through informal education we get to turn theory into practice and actively participate in meaningful opportunities to exercise our rights:

- **Democracy** – *we often learn by doing; learning about politics is only part of the process*
- **Citizenship** – *understanding our legal status in society as individuals and exercising our rights and responsibilities*
- **Voting** – *we get to decide on matters that are of concern to us and vote for those we want to represent us to further our voice*
- **Social Action** – *community based projects that seek change*

United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child

Article 12

States:

“All children and young people have the right to express their views on all matters of concern to them and have those views taken seriously”.

Article 13

States:

“Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive information of any kind as long as it is within the law”

Article 15

States:

“Children & young people have the right to meet together and join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights”

Empowerment



Participation



Education



Equality



What is Youth Participation?

'Youth Participation is the process by which children and young people **influence decision making** which brings about **change** in **them, others**, their **services** and their **communities**'



Winners: British Youth Council Youth Voice Award for Youth-Led Organisation of the Year

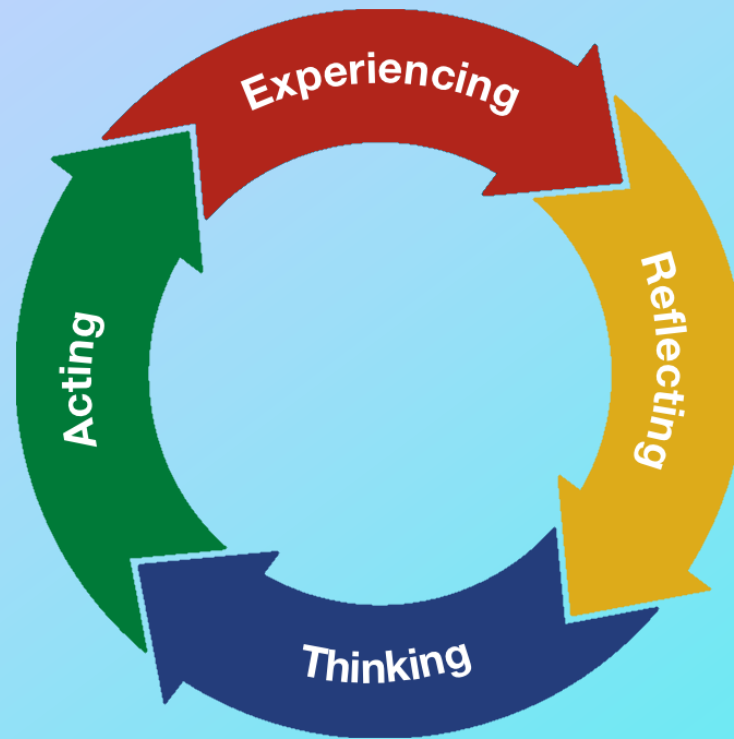
National Hear by Right standards for youth participation

Some Highlights of 2022-2023

- Gloucestershire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Annual Section 11 Audit for Safeguarding
- 2030 Community Engagement Board
- SDC Recruitment: Interviews for Head of Community Services
- Summer Events
- SDYC Manifesto

Reflective Practice

Experiential Learning Theory – *David Kolb*



Impacts and outcomes

Youth Participation / Youth Voice impacts on:

- The services young people receive
- The communities where young people live
- Young peoples own personal, social and educational development

Outcomes - Catalyst Framework of Young People Outcomes:

Communication - Explaining; expressing yourself; presenting; listening; questioning; using different ways to communicate

Manage Feelings - Reviewing; self-awareness; reflecting; self-regulating; self-accepting.

Resilience and Determination - Self-disciplined; self-management; self-motivated; concentrating; having a sense of purpose; persistent; self-controlled

Creativity - Imagining alternative ways of doing things; applying learning in new contexts (or in new experiences); enterprising; innovating; remaining open to new ideas

Relationships and Leadership - Motivating others; valuing and contributing to team-working; negotiating; establishing positive relationships; interpreting others; managing conflict; empathising

Planning and Problem Solving - Navigating resources; Organising; Setting and achieving goals; Decision-making; Researching; Analysing; Critical thinking; Evaluating risks; Reliability

Confidence and Agency - Self-reliance / self-sufficiency / self-assurance; Self-esteem / self-respect / self-image; Self-efficacy

Stroud District Youth Council & Local Youth Forum Groups

...a great way to voice your opinions on issues that effect **you**, gain valuable skills and experiences, and have fun!



To find out more, contact us:

Call the SDC Youth Work Team on: **07896 690140**

 Facebook: **stroudyouthvoice**  Instagram: **strouddistrictyouthcouncil**

 Twitter: **@Stroudyouth** Website: **www.stroudyouthvoice.co.uk**

