

Essex Youth Service

Make Your Mark

Results 2024

Sweyne Park School

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Reviewed		

Introduction

This report details the results of the 'Make Your Mark' ballot held between 29 January and 8 March 2024, focusing on the results locally in Essex*. This work was led in Essex by the Young Essex Assembly members and youth workers, with invaluable support from the wider Essex Youth Service.

Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark is an opportunity for 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say and begin their democratic journey by voting on the issues they want to change. This year 10 issues were presented to young people across the UK on a ballot paper, they voted in schools, colleges, and youth groups between 29 January and 8 March 2024.

The results of Make Your Mark will influence hundreds of projects and campaigns, led by young people - for young people across the UK. Members of the UK Youth Parliament will campaign and research the leading topics, to influence the UK Parliament and their local representatives, ensuring that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers.

The Young Essex Assembly

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) stands as the elected youth council representing the diverse voices of Essex youth, supported by the Essex Youth Service. Every two years, 75 young individuals from across Essex are elected to serve as YEA members, while seven members of Youth Parliament are annually elected to represent Essex on a national scale. The YEA plays a pivotal role in reviewing priorities, conducting consultations, advocating, and engaging with their peers, adults, organisations, and decision-makers, ensuring that the youth demographic is actively involved in crucial discussions and decisions at all levels. With an aim to effect positive change for the youth of Essex, the YEA also serves as a platform for personal and social development, empowering its members with opportunities and experiences that broaden horizons and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to navigate their future endeavours.

**The number of votes for Essex in this report will differ to those in the national report by 732 votes, due to receiving a small number of late returns from schools and the inclusion of spoilt ballots. We still include these late votes as we want to ensure all Essex young people who voted were listened to. Of the 732, 432 were valid and 300 were spoilt.*

Your Schools Results – Sweyne Park School Results

501 students voted in Sweyne Park School with **Health and Wellbeing** being voted their top issue with **105 votes**.

Sweyne Park School Total votes	
Topics	No. Votes
Education and Learning	51
International Relations	15
Health and Wellbeing	105
Rights, Equalities, and Democracy	34
Jobs, the Economy and Benefits	49
Crime and Safety	63
Culture, Media, Sport	80
Climate Change and the Environment	43
Transport	37
Youth Work and Young People's Services	24
Spoilt	0
Total	501

Essex Results

35,231 young people in Essex engaged with Make Your Mark, representing an impressive **25.55% turnout** from the 11-18 year old demographic. **75 Essex Schools** participated. The youth service supported **over 90** youth groups and programmes to take part and vote as well as engaging with **474** young people on detached sessions across the county. Participation with Make your Mark in 2024 has increased by 10.75% from 2022, where 20,406 Essex Young people engaged.

Area	Population of 11-18 yr. olds	Total votes	% of population
Essex	137,892	35,231	25.55%

Essex young people voted **Health and Wellbeing** as their top issue with **5,950 votes**.

County Wide Total votes		
Topics	No. votes	% of votes
Health and Wellbeing	5,950	16.89%
Jobs, the Economy and Benefits	5,849	16.60%
Crime and Safety	5,517	15.66%
Culture, Media and Sport	5,204	14.77%
Education and Learning	3,008	8.54%
Climate Change and the Environment	2,633	7.47%
Rights, Equalities and Democracy	2,282	6.48%
Transport	2,094	5.94%
Youth Work and Young People's Services	1,539	4.37%
International Relations	855	2.43%
Spoilt	300	0.85%
Total	35,231	