



Getting ready for FMQT Next Generation

An update resource for teachers, youth workers and practitioners
working with children and young people for Spring 2019

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[#FMQTNextGeneration](#)



About FMQT Next Generation

In September 2018 we ran the first ever FMQT (First Minister's Question Time) Next Generation with 100 children and young people in Glasgow. Young people asked the First Minister tough questions on the environment, LGBT inclusive education, the accessibility of politics, homelessness, mental health, issues for care experienced young people and more.

This year, FMQT Next Generation is back to give even more children and young people the chance to have their views heard and acted upon. It will continue to give children and young people the opportunity to have a meaningful say about how Scotland is run.

Children and young people aged from 8 to 18, with an upper limit of 26 for those young people with additional support needs, can participate by submitting questions, being in the live audience, and by learning more about children and young people's participation with this and other FMQT Next Generation resources (more details on page 5).

About this resource

This resource is for teachers, youth workers, parents, carers and other practitioners working with children and young people. The information and activities in this resource are designed to support the participation of children and young people in FMQT Next Generation.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

FMQT Next Generation supports the realisation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by prioritising children and young people's participation in matters affecting them.

Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone: whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 3

All adults should always do what is best for you.

Article 4

You have the right to have your rights made a reality by government.

Article 12

You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 13

You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing, unless it breaks the rights of others.

Foreword from the First Minister



"I am excited to be involved in the second FMQT Next Generation, facing questions from Scotland's children and young people, and finding out more about what matters to them.

The legacy of last year's Year of Young People lives on - with a real focus on ensuring that we as a government put the interests of Scotland's children and young people at the heart of our work.

We are committed to enhancing children's rights in all aspects of Scottish life – this is an important part of our ambition to make Scotland the best place to grow up, be educated and to live and work.

Through events like this I really hope that young people will learn more about the value of participating in politics and decision-making. We want our young people to have the confidence and skills to influence decisions that affect them, effectively participate in wider civic society and shape the future Scotland they want to live in.

As First Minister, events like this, provide an excellent opportunity for me to directly listen to the voices of our young people, and I genuinely value their continued engagement on the issues that are important to them, their friends and families, and their local communities."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

Foreword from the Design Team

The Design Team and Online Design Team are a group of 19 children and young people who have played a significant role in shaping the FMQT Next Generation project. They have been involved in the major decisions about FMQT, ranging from the venue and format of the event, to the questions selected to be asked, down to the type of seats we sat on!



"I believe getting involved in events like this one is important, our community evolves around us and it's great to speak out and have the confidence to let people know what we want our community to be like so we can feel secure, happy and safe.

I also think it's a good idea to be involved in events like this one for future reference to be able to advise others about how they want their community to be and to speak out about it.

In the end I've enjoyed being in this project which has been going really well!"

Divine, Design Team

"I think this project is important because lots of children turn a blind eye towards politics and current world affairs – they think it's boring or for adults only. But what they don't realise is that politics is all around them: what happens in their school; what treatments are available through the NHS; living costs; what amenities there are in their local area, and even when our bins are collected! I want to promote the world of politics and open it up to younger people who don't think politics is for them."

Tamsin, Online Design Team



What happened at the first event?

In September 2018, 100 children and young people gathered in Glasgow to ask the First Minister questions on issues that mattered to them. It was an opportunity for children and young people to have their views heard and acted upon at national level. Asking questions of Scotland's First Minister, particularly for those too young to have a vote or who find it difficult to have their voices heard otherwise, allows children and young people to express their views and needs directly to the Scottish Government. They asked questions on topics including:

NHS waiting times	Tolerance awareness
Housing for asylum seekers	LGBT-inclusive education
Plastic pollution	Hate crimes and Islamophobia
Accessibility of career in politics	Homeless young people
Mental health support	Skills for life
Support for young people leaving care	Homework
Sanitary products	Political education in schools
Education about visual impairment and blindness	

You can watch the full event on [YouTube](#) or on [Glow](#) (login required). Practitioners can also use the accompanying resource, [Changing the world with FMQT Next Generation](#), with children and young people to support further engagement with FMQT Next Generation.



What children and young people told us about the first event

"I think it was really fun to plan and to happen. There will be a few changes but it will be exciting to see how it will turn out this time."

Eloise, Design Team

"I liked how it was an event specifically for children and young people because I think it is important for them to get involved in politics and understand how the country is run."

Audience member

"Make the open questions time longer so that other people can get a chance to ask questions."

Audience member

"I liked how the event was nice and welcoming."

Divine, Design Team

"I was really impressed by the inclusivity of the event; gender neutral bathrooms and sign language inclusive."

Audience member

"I think that we achieved the laid-back comfy atmosphere we were aiming for without the expense of harming the serious nature of the event, yet we need more time for rebuttal and questions from the audience."

Josh, Design Team





Submitting a question

Children and young people aged 8 to 18, with an upper limit of 26 for young people with additional support needs, can submit questions for the First Minister. Questions should focus on devolved issues¹ and should, as far as possible, not repeat the questions from the first event (although follow-up and supplementary questions are welcome).

The Design Team, in collaboration with staff from Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland, will select the questions to be asked at FMQT Next Generation events. The Design Team will be making their choice based on questions that represent the age range of the audience and which address a range of topics that were not covered at the first event. *Each group or class can submit a maximum of 3 questions.*

To help you think of questions, we've included activities in this resource that can be used with groups of children and young people to think of questions and also to prioritise from a large selection of questions.

Questions can be submitted in a range of formats, for example text, video and pictures. To submit your question, email Emma Rogan (erogan@childreninscotland.org.uk) with the subject line **FMQT Next Generation Question**.

Please include the following details of the child or young person submitting the question:

- First name
- Age
- Local authority
- Question (in chosen format, see above)
- Why this question is important

Those submitting successful questions will be given the opportunity to ask their question live at FMQT Next Generation on Tuesday 23rd April in the Edinburgh area. There might be an opportunity for question askers to be interviewed by a TV crew and for their story to be broadcast on TV and social media channels. Taking part in this aspect is not a pre-requisite for submitting a question.

Questions must be submitted by **5pm on Sunday 3rd March 2019**.

¹ See page 10 for information about devolved issues.



Be part of the audience

We have a limited number of places for children and young people aged 8 to 18, with an upper limit of 26 for young people with additional support needs, to be part of the audience for FMQT Next Generation on Tuesday 23rd April. We aim to engage a diverse group of children and young people, particularly those whose voices are seldom heard.

Children and young people should come as part of an established group, such as a school or youth group. A maximum of four children and young people are permitted per group, along with one accompanying practitioner (except in circumstances of additional support needs).

To express interest in attending, email fmqt@childreninscotland.org.uk by **5pm on Monday 18th March 2019**. You will then be sent an information form to complete and return to us. Successful groups will be contacted with full details of the time and location of the event on Monday 25th March.

Please note:

- We are unable to provide any costs incurred to attend this event, for example class cover or transport.
- Expressions of interest do not guarantee audience places at the event.
- Practitioners will not be participating in the event.
- This event will be filmed, broadcast and shared digitally.

Who is the First Minister?

The First Minister is head of the Scottish Government and ultimately responsible for all decisions and policies made by the Scottish Government. The First Minister represents Scotland in all devolved areas. This means that the elected First Minister is expected to have a clear vision for running the country and to make decisions and frame policies for education, health, transport, police and fire services, children's services, farming, forestry and so on.

It is also the responsibility of the First Minister to liaise with the UK Government over reserved matters such as defence and benefits. The First Minister is an international figure, elected to represent Scotland on all devolved matters. There is more information on devolved and reserved issues on page 10.

The First Minister appoints a team of people to work with them called the Cabinet. There is a Deputy First Minister and each person appointed thereafter is responsible for a particular area of government and is known as a Cabinet Secretary. For example, there is a Cabinet Secretary for Justice who is in charge of the justice system in Scotland.

The First Minister is accountable for all decisions that the government make. One way this happens is through First Minister's Question Time. This takes place between 12:00 and 12:30 every Thursday at the Scottish Parliament while Parliament is in session. The opposition party and other MSPs put forward questions on any issue, law or policy for the First Minister to answer.

The current First Minister is Nicola Sturgeon. She has been the First Minister since November 2014. She is the MSP for Glasgow Southside and has been an MSP since 1999.

Why are we asking her questions?

FMQT Next Generation is an opportunity for children and young people to have their views heard and acted upon at national level. Asking questions of Scotland's First Minister, particularly for those too young to have a vote or whose voices are seldom heard, allows children and young people to express their views and needs directly to the Scottish Government.

This provides children and young people with the chance to influence national policy, which often affects their lives directly. It also provides a platform to scrutinise policy, for example the mental health strategy, and makes a direct link between the opinions of the younger generation and how policy is developed in the future.

The First Minister will answer questions on a range of issues relevant to and decided by children and young people. The questions raised by children and young people, as well as the experiences motivating them, will be fed into wider policy development, including through the Scottish Government, Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland.

Devolved/reserved issues

In 1998, a law was passed in the UK Parliament to establish a Scottish Parliament with powers to make laws on a range of issues that affect day-to-day life in Scotland. These issues are called **devolved matters**. They include areas such as education, housing, environment, transport and health.

There are also matters **reserved** to the UK Parliament, such as immigration, foreign policy and defence. Only the UK Parliament can make laws on these areas.

Devolved

Education	Housing
Agriculture and Forestry	Fishing
Local Government	Health and Social Care
Tax and Borrowing Powers	Law and Order
Police and Fire services	Environment
Tourism and Culture	Sport and the Arts
Transport	Some Welfare benefits

Reserved

Foreign affairs	Defence
National security	The Constitution
Welfare	Immigration
Broadcasting	Economic policy for the UK
Energy – electricity, gas, coal, oil and nuclear	



Activities

The following activities have been designed to discuss children and young people's priorities and to shape questions for FMQT Next Generation. Practitioners should consider the age, stage and development of the children and young people they work with and adapt the activities accordingly.

This list of activities is not exhaustive and practitioners are encouraged to use other activities to complement this work.

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Health and Wellbeing

HWB 0-12a / HWB 1-12a / HWB 2-12a / HWB 3-12a / HWB 4-12a

Social Studies

SOC 2-17a / SOC 3-17a

Identifying issues

Reflecting on FMQT Next Generation

45 minutes

Materials: Clips from first event

Purpose: This activity will give young people further insight into FMQT Next Generation and help them to form their own questions to ask the First Minister.

Watch [clips from FMQT Next Generation event](#) 1. Start a discussion with your group using these questions as prompts:

- What did you think of the questions that were asked?
- What did you think of the First Minister's answers?
- What question would you like to ask the First Minister and why?

Related: For more activities based on clips from the first event, download [Changing the world with FMQT Next Generation](#).



Day in the Life

2 hours

Materials: Devolved issues cards [see Appendix], optional: range of other materials

Purpose: This activity is designed to show children and young people the relevance of devolved issues to their everyday life. It is a good starting point for those who may be unfamiliar with local and national decision-making.

Start in small groups. Give each group one set of Devolved issues cards [see Appendix]. Ask the group to think about a young person's day. They should use the cards to show when the issue is relevant to their day, for example going to school (Education) or taking a bus ride (Transport).

Groups can be creative when presenting their day to the other groups. Here are some of our ideas:

- Verbal story telling
- Illustrated days
- Role play
- Lego or Play-Doh characters
- Stop motion videos or gifs
- Mock social media posts (Tweets/Instagram photos/etc)

Use the following points to discuss in small groups or in plenary.

- Were you surprised about any issues? Were any issues missing from your day?
- How are different young people impacted by different issues?
- Do you feel like your voice is heard on issues that affect you?
- Which issues are most important to you?
- What question would you ask the First Minister about your most important issues?

Making collages

1-1.5 hours

Materials: Magazines, newspapers, glue

Purpose: This activity gets children and young people thinking about the problems or issues in Scotland important to them.

In small groups, ask the young people to cut out photos and headlines using newspapers and magazines demonstrating problems or issues in Scotland. Alternatively, this activity can be done digitally with young people, for example collating a collection of images found online in a Word document.

Groups should create a collage for each issue. Once collages are complete, groups should present their issues to the whole group explaining why they picked them. In plenary, classify each issue under a main heading (for example, education, environment, human rights, etc).

Lay all the collages out so each is visible. Small groups should now select one issue that affects young people or that they care about. They should now answer the following questions about the issue:

- How does this issue affect children and young people?
- What could improve the issue?
- Who can improve the issue?

Example:

The issue: There is too much rubbish in my area (Environment)

The issue could be improved by reducing waste and recycling more.

Lots of people would need to take action to improve this issue.

Groups should present the new information about the issue to other groups.

Prioritising issues

Top Three

1 hour

Materials: Devolved issues cards (if required)

Purpose: This activity helps to form a group consensus around important issues.

Start in pairs. Each pair discusses the list of devolved issues and is asked to agree their top three priority areas.

Each pair then comes together with another to form a group of four. The two pairs compare their lists of top three priority areas and agree on a joint top three.

Each group of four comes together with another to form a group of eight. Again, each group takes its two lists of priority areas and reduces it to an agreed top three.

Repeat until the whole group has come back together. Three clear priorities have emerged. Young people can now form questions on these issues.

Adapted from: seedsforchange.org.uk



Diamonds

30mins

Materials: Paper

Purpose: This activity gives groups the tools to prioritise their questions.

Ask the group to brainstorm a list of questions to ask the First Minister. Each question should be written on a separate piece of paper. In groups, arrange the issues in a diamond ranking, with positive 1 being the issue with most support and, 9 being the issue with least support.

1: most support

2-3: next best ideas

4-6: other possibilities

7-8: little support

9: weakest idea



Beans

30mins

Materials: Dried beans (or alternative counters)

Purpose: A quick, visual way to prioritise issues. This activity supports understanding of democratic processes.

Give each participant a measured scoop of dried beans. Ask the young people to put an amount of beans against their chosen issue, explaining that the more important they feel an issue is, the more beans they should put against it.

Once each young person has voted with their beans, remove the issue with the lowest amount. Continue this process until there is one issue left.

This activity could also be run using dot stickers.

Appendix: Devolved Issues Cards



Health and
social care



Tax and borrowing



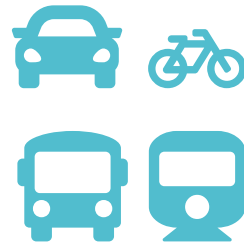
Law and order



Police and Fire



Tourism and culture



Transport



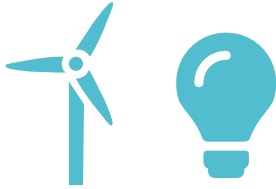
Some
welfare benefits



Education



Environment



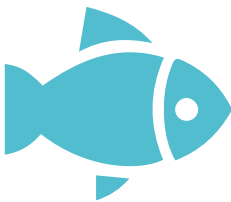
Energy



Housing



Agriculture and
Forestry



Fishing



Local Government



Sport and the arts



Getting ready for FMQT Next Generation



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