



# SOUTHAMPTONS CHILDREN'S MAYOR

2024

Details about Southampton Children's Mayor Program. Includes details about how young people will apply and duties of the Mayor once in post.

Collins, Hayden, Youth Participation Officer  
[hayden.collins@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:hayden.collins@southampton.gov.uk)

## Contents

What is a Children's Mayor? .....	1
What will a Children's Mayor do?.....	1
Who can be the Children's Mayor? .....	2
How will the Children's Mayor be selected? .....	2
Why do we want a Children's Mayor? .....	3
Entrants Task.....	4
What makes a good entry? .....	5
How the shortlisting works .....	5
Example Manifesto .....	6
Session Plan for Teachers 'Entering Southampton Children's Mayor' .....	7
What the new Children's Mayor can expect.....	9

Southampton's vision is to become a Child Friendly City:

Our Values are to:

- a. **Be Inclusive** – by becoming a **participative city** in which children experience meaningful engagement in the design, delivery and place shaping of Southampton,
- b. **Listen** – by implement a participation framework for children within Southampton City Council's democratic processes within which consultation with children takes place,
- c. **Learn** - by ensuring all strategy and policy are informed by the active engagement of children, with new strategic commitments expressed in child friendly terms that support children's inclusion and participation in civic policy creation.

## What is a Children's Mayor?

The project aims to actively engage and raise awareness for children of our local Council decision making processes to promote an understanding of children's rights and responsibilities, as well as being an active citizen. It is an opportunity for schools to encourage and support pupils to be aspirational and to help children recognise that their voices can influence change. The role will be ceremonial and link with The Mayor of Southampton in attending city events, by prior agreement and only with a representative of the school, their parents, or Stronger Communities team (DBS Cleared) staff present to enable them to do so. This will help to share the voice of our primary school aged children in the city. We wish to thank Leeds Child Friendly Team for helping us shape our very own program.

Last year we had more schools apply than the previous year, so thank you so much for helping to support the program. Here is a video from our first ever Children's Mayor, headteacher and parent on the benefits of the programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnD6Duo1lgA>

## What will a Children's Mayor do?

The Children's Mayor is a ceremonial figure who will represent primary school aged children in our local participative processes for children. A dedicated robe for the Children's Mayor will be provided. Largely symbolic, the Children's Mayor will work with other children and young people, including the Member of Youth Parliament and forums such as the Youth Forum and soon to be initiated Youth Council. They will be encouraged to bring primary school aged children's perspectives into council activity, by working with the Stronger Communities Team, SCC staff and Youth Council to help shape council plans by first creating a project idea aimed at improving their local community. The child selected to be Children's Mayor, will be from a school that has pitched an idea to the Council that the Youth Forum will review and agree is the most beneficial idea or scheme. A shortlist of three will be presented to the Mayor and Sheriff to select a winner.

The Children's Mayor will be selected from within the winning school. The Children's Mayor will work with the Southampton City Council Officers and will be supported by the Stronger Communities Team (Youth Participation Officer). The Stronger Communities team will work

with the winning school and external partners to implement their project idea – this could be a community project, a local campaign or fun activity that benefits children where they live.

They will also share appearances with Southampton’s Mayor when appropriate and practicable to do so. There is no expectation that a Children’s Mayor will attend events that are not appropriate or practical. Any activity involving the Children’s Mayor will as a minimum be contingent on parental consent and involve a parent or teacher, with support of the Youth Participation Officer.

They will be provided the opportunity to attend big events within the city, including the Mayor Making Ceremony, Remembrance Day, Mela Festival and other appropriate locations and events. Requests for the Children’s Mayor to take part in events will be made by the Mayor via the Youth Participation Officer who will liaise with the parents and schools

The child chosen will represent Southampton’s children below the age of 11 – helping express their views within civic business through our participative forums, surveys and communications about Child Friendly.

## Who can be the Children’s Mayor?

Schools can enter just one candidate from year 5 (in 2023/2024), whose term will begin May (2024), at the start of year 6 (2024/25). We encourage schools to ask all their year 5 pupils to complete an application and hold a vote in school to choose the best overall entry to submit, however, schools may wish to organise their response as is most practicable for them.

The young person’s parents/carers will be asked to consent to photography, filming and involvement in media events due to the nature of the role – with public appearances being likely. They will also need parental and school consent for local media who may show an active interest in using the mayor in stories. Any adaptations or special needs that the Children’s Mayor may present with will be risk assessed in liaison with the child’s parents/carers and school.

Most importantly, the winner will be proud to be from Southampton and wants to become an active member in improving their community. A child who has overcome adversity to become a stronger individual would be an ideal candidate. The role would be an amazing opportunity for a young person to experience the life of a Mayor and give them a real insight into the democratic society they live in.

## How will the Children’s Mayor be selected?

Young people will be instrumental in selecting the Children’s Mayor, working alongside council officers and politicians to jointly decide the successful application.

For Southampton's 2024 Children's Mayor:

December 2024	Schools will start to receive all the information they require to enter Southampton's Children's Mayor
February 2024	Deadline for applications to be submitted (application form and photo consent form)
End of February 2024	Council Officers to select 12 candidates
March 2024	Youth Forum members to vote on their top 3 applications (names redacted to ensure fairness)
March 2024	Shortlisting: a panel potentially including the Member of Youth Parliament, Cabinet Member for Children, Shadow Cabinet Member, Chief Executive, Education Rep, Mayor and Sherriff to pick the winner.
April 2024	Winner contacted and invited to the official Mayor Making Ceremony
May 2024	The winner and family attend the Mayor making ceremony

### Why do we want a Children's Mayor?

The purpose of having a Children's Mayor is to provide primary school aged children with the opportunity to engage with the ceremonial elements associated with our local democratic processes. They will have no formal constitutional role and will act as a symbol of the city's commitment to hearing children's voices and support our ambition to become a Child Friendly City. Whilst also being a fantastic chance to showcase their skills, it will provide a project platform that is designed by young people, for young people, in helping make Southampton a better place through a project they have conceived of and will work with the Stronger Communities Team to deliver. We wish to empower our youngest generation to showcase their voices and opinions are pivotal in the design of the city.

A Children's Mayor, working alongside the Member of Youth Parliament, Youth Council of representative groups across the city will help achieve the city's ambition to become a Child Friendly City.

## Entrants Task

Entrants are asked to think about a low cost / no cost idea that could benefit their school and community. Think of an issue that affects you or your community and come up with an idea to help tackle it. Once entrants have come up with an idea, they complete the below form, this can be in any method, including video and audio if filling out the form isn't possible.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>School</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	
<b>Summarise your idea in 15 words</b>	<i>The summary will be used on social media so please try explain your idea as best as you can in 15 words</i>

<b>Your Idea (no more than 200 words)</b>
If I was Children's Mayor of Southampton....

<b>How will your idea make a difference and who will benefit? (no more than 200 words)</b>

<b>Low cost / no cost idea for how other children in the city can help with your manifesto (no more than 100 words)</b>

Please return your application form to [hayden.collins@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:hayden.collins@southampton.gov.uk) or post (electronical preferred as will confirm once received) to Hayden Collins, Southampton City Council, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## What makes a good entry?

### Key points to consider when writing a manifesto:

- What is the main idea of the manifesto and what will it improve for children and young people in Southampton?
- How will the idea make a difference? – Explain what would need to happen for the idea to truly make a difference
- Is the idea achievable and affordable? - Entrants should consider all the practical elements of their manifesto
- Are the ideas practical and realistic? – It is important that they are both practical and realistic (a swimming pool for every child in Southampton may be a great idea, but practically, it is unlikely to ever happen!)
- Who will benefit? – Explain what difference the improvements would make to the lives of other children in the city, the more people who would benefit from the campaign the better!
- Making sure the application is legible, with electronic versions preferred. Is it well presented? Maybe show a trusted adult, can they understand it?

## How the shortlisting works

Each entrant is scored against a five different criteria's and will be given extra points if:

- Extra points will be given to ideas that have an impact on children and young people across a larger geographical area (i.e., doesn't just benefit pupils in their school)
- Extra points will be awarded to ideas that are low cost and where entrants have shown they have thought about the cost's implications of their idea
- Extra points will be award to ideas that are practical and can be put in place by Southampton City Council and/or the school
- Extra points will be given to ideas that are creative and have the 'wow' factor

## Example Manifesto

### From the current Southampton's Children Mayor

'Stop. Think. Racism Stinks'

#### Your Idea (no more than 200 words)

If I was Children's Mayor of Southampton, I would ask schools to have litter picking clubs that will help all of us have clean surroundings. This group can be coordinated by an eco-council that may already be there in your school (our school has one!). Litter picking could inspire students and adults to stop littering. The litter picking club would pick up litter in our school playgrounds and in the neighbouring areas at least 2 days a week with support from teachers and parents. This would help everyone understand the huge impact littering makes on us and our environment. Even though the club is part of the school, I hope litter picking becomes a habit for everyone outside of school. This would help keep the streets of Southampton clean and green.

#### How will your idea make a difference and who will benefit? (no more than 200 words)

Littering is awful for our environment and is unkind to both people and animals. I think all people, especially young pupils, need fresh air and clean space. Also, the green spaces used by animals should not be taken over by litter. Hence, littering must stop and teaching children to take action now will make sure they don't do it when they are older. This will also make sure that they don't have to live with this problem in the future. Forming a litter picking club will raise awareness of many other environmental issues. It will also create new friendships and communities within the school and the neighbourhood.

#### Low cost / no cost idea for how other children in the city can help with your manifesto (no more than 100 words)

Other children in the city would have many chances to help with my manifesto. They can start a litter picking club to clean up their neighbourhood. This will be very low cost or even free as all you need are gloves, bin bags and enthusiasm for the environment. We can have fundraisers in school (bake sales and raffles) to raise money for hand-held litter-sticks and maybe children can bring bin bags from home. Even though this is for children in schools, anyone in Southampton can take part in this fight against litter.



## Session Plan for Teachers ‘Entering Southampton Children’s Mayor’

To ensure as many pupils as possible / schools can get involved in the Southampton Children’s Mayor project we have developed a lesson plan that can be adapted to suite your school. If you are unable to dedicate time for this in lesson time, you could set this task as homework and ask pupils

<b>Objective:</b> Each year 5 pupil to come up with an idea that can make their school, community, and Southampton more child friendly	
<b>National Curriculum:</b> Citizenship English grammar, punctuation, and spelling	<b>Resources:</b> Southampton Children’s Mayor entrants’ task Southampton Children’s Mayor ‘what makes a good entry’
<b>Teaching activities:</b>  Ask each pupil to think about an idea that could make their school, community, and Southampton more child friendly.  Give each pupil a copy of the ‘entrant’s task’. Explain to pupils what makes a good entry (see page 5 of resource pack)  Ask each pupil to come up with an idea of how they can address the issue they have chosen, once they have an idea, they need to complete the entry task by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Write what their idea is in no more than 200 words, starting ‘If I was Children’s Mayor...’</li> <li>- How will their idea make a difference / who will benefit (in no more than 200 words)</li> <li>- Coming up with a low cost / no cost idea (no more than 100 words)</li> <li>- Summarising their idea in 15 words. The summary will be used on the voting page, social media, and the ballot paper.</li> </ul>	
<b>What next:</b> The school can either submit one per school or multiple, we advise holding a vote in school to decide what candidate to put forward.	

Once pupils have written their entries you need to decide which single entry you will be submitting from your school, there are a few options for voting.

[Option 1: all school to choose the entry to be submitted](#)

<b>Objective:</b> One entry to be chosen to be submitted for Southampton Children's Mayor	
<b>National Curriculum:</b> Citizenship	<b>Resources:</b> All entries written by young people Voting papers
<b>Teaching activities:</b> You could create a display of the manifestos and invite pupils, staff, governors, and the school community to vote for the winning manifesto.  Voting can be done via tally votes in class or by voting papers.	
<b>What next:</b> Teachers need to count the votes and enter the entry with the most votes to the Southampton Children's Mayor team by 9th February 2024.	

[Option 2: school council to choose the entry to be submitted \(Recommended\)](#)

<b>Objective:</b> One entry to be chosen to be submitted for Southampton Children's Mayor	
<b>National Curriculum:</b> Citizenship	<b>Resources:</b> All entries written by young people Voting papers
<b>Teaching activities:</b> Ask the school council to read all manifestos and vote for their favourite. Remove names from manifestos so that they are judged on the quality of the manifesto and not who has written it!	
<b>What next:</b> Teachers need to count the votes and enter the entry with the most votes to the Southampton Children's Mayor team by 9th February 2024.	

## What the new Children's Mayor can expect

### What does being the Southampton Children's Mayor Entail?

- Having the Lord Mayor of Southampton present a certificate at an assembly in school
- Working alongside council teams to try and implement the manifesto
- Accompanying the Lord Mayor on the Remembrance Sunday parade
- Attending a variety of civic functions throughout the year in the official role as Southampton Children's Mayor

The Southampton Children's Mayor will be expected to wear the robes at all high-profile engagements.

### Low cost / no cost idea

The Children's Mayor will work with the Participation Team to make their low cost / no cost idea a reality.

### What is expected of parents / carers?

The parents / carers of the Southampton Children's Mayor will be asked to support their child to attend all engagements through the year. Parents / carers will be sent details of the engagements and are able to accept or decline any of the engagements.

If parents / carers have any problems with travel arrangements for engagements they need to inform the Southampton Children's Mayor team at the earliest convenience, and we will support where we can.

The Southampton Children's Mayor Team will arrange to meet with the parents / carers following the announcement of the new Children's Mayor to go through all the details and what will happen during their child's term.

### What is expected of the school?

Schools will be asked to support the winning manifesto and take part in any activities that are organised as part of the manifesto.

We will try and ensure engagements where the Southampton Children's Mayor is invited to attend are held on evenings and weekends, however there may be occasions through the year where they are held during the school day. On these occasions we will contact the school to agree out of school consent for the Southampton Children's Mayor.