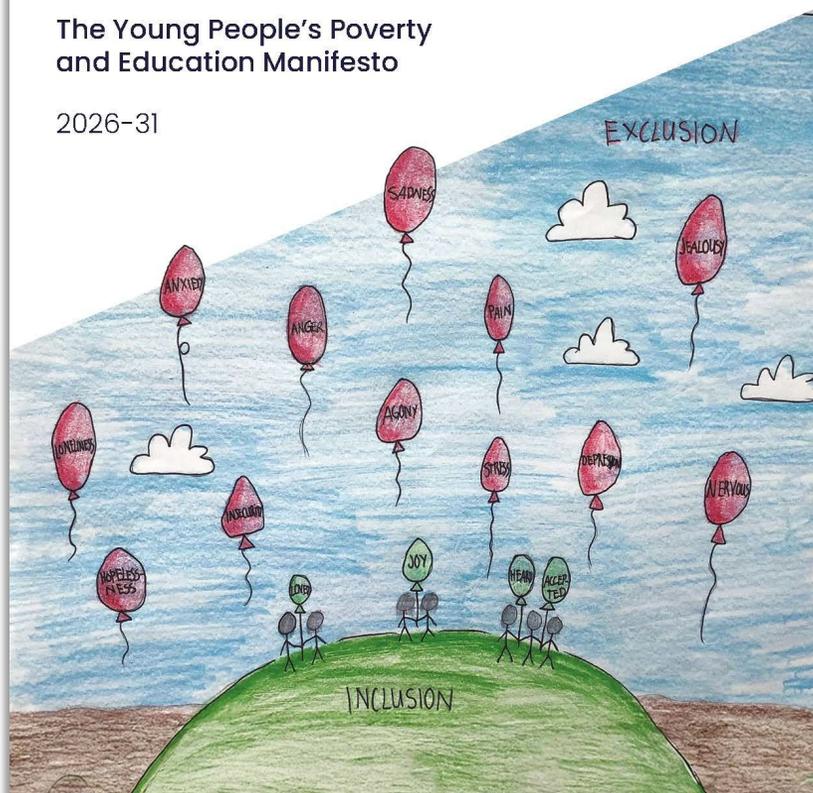


# School Shouldn't Cost

CHILD  
POVERTY  
ACTION  
GROUP  
in Scotland

The Young People's Poverty  
and Education Manifesto

2026-31



## Get your school involved with sharing School Shouldn't Cost, the Young People's Poverty and Education Manifesto

In this pack you'll find:

- Steps to work through when you're planning an assembly or presentation to your school community
- Some sample slides to use or adapt

# Steps for planning your assembly or presentation

- 1. Do your research.** Read and discuss the [School Shouldn't Cost manifesto](#) so you know it well. Have a look at the [CPAG website](#) for extra facts on child poverty and education.
- 2. Decide what you want people to know and what you want them to do.** Write one simple goal sentence.
- 3. Think about your audience** - who will be listening? What might be interesting to them?



# Steps for planning your assembly or presentation

4. Write a simple script, remembering your goal.

- **Opening:** Try to grab people's attention - you could ask a question, tell a story or share [some child poverty facts and figures](#)
- **Middle:** Explain the manifesto and why your group think it matters. What needs to change? What difference could it make in your school?
- **Ending:** Share a clear action – tell people what they can do next. This might be joining your group, adding their names to letters or emails you're sending to politicians, or helping to make posters and drawings.



# Steps for planning your assembly or presentation

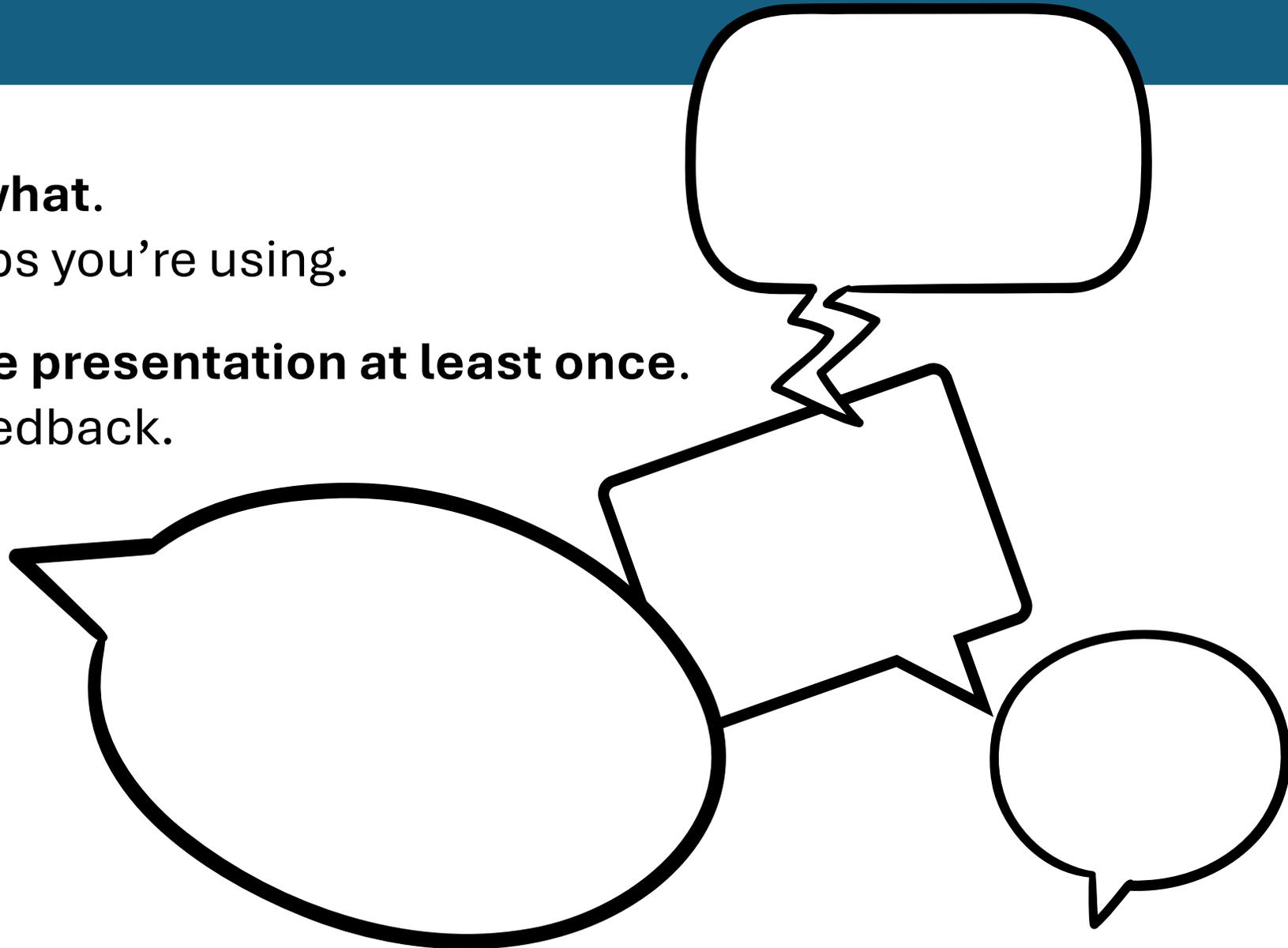
## 5. **Decide who is doing what.**

Make any slides or props you're using.

## 6. **Run through the whole presentation at least once.**

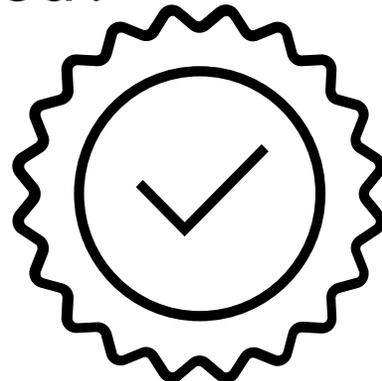
Ask your teacher for feedback.

## 7. **Deliver it!**



# Planning checklist

- Do we all know the School Shouldn't Cost manifesto well?
- Do we have a clear goal for the assembly or presentation?
- Is it the right length for the time that we have?
- Do we all feel confident and prepared for the parts we're doing?
- Have we kept language simple - will everyone understand us?
- Have we grabbed people's attention? Will they stay interested?
- Will everyone leave knowing what they can do next to help?



# Sample slides

Here are a few slides that you can use or adapt. Look in the notes section for some pointers and ideas.

# Introduction

- Who we are
- Why we're talking to you
- What we're going to speak about
- Why it's important to us.

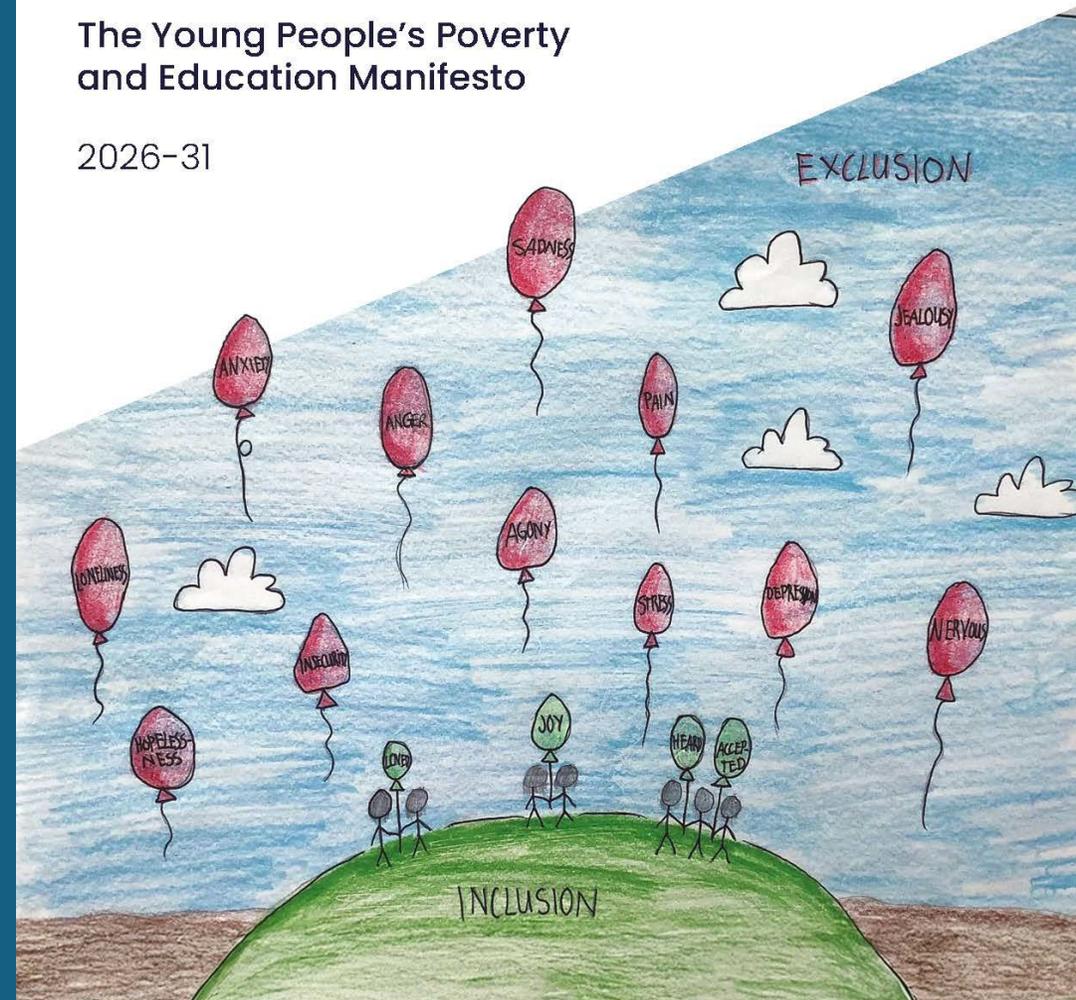


# School Shouldn't Cost



The Young People's Poverty and Education Manifesto

2026-31





# What's a manifesto?

- Scottish Parliament elections are in May
- All political parties will make **manifestos** – their lists of promises or plans trying to convince people to vote for them
- We can influence what's in their manifestos – when politicians know what people care about, they're more likely to make promises or plans to help with it.



# Our School Shouldn't Cost manifesto

Thousands of pupils across Scotland have shared their views on what would make school great for everyone. They thought of the things that would help make things equal and fair for everyone, no matter how much money they have at home.

They have made their own manifesto called School Shouldn't Cost.

It has 5 main calls in it – these are the things they want politicians to agree with and include in their own party manifestos...

(You can use this QR code to read the manifesto)



# Our School Shouldn't Cost manifesto

## Call 1

1

End child poverty. Make sure our families have what they need so we can come to school ready to learn

Nearly 1 in 4 children in Scotland are growing up in poverty. Poverty means not having enough money for the things you need. It can affect lots of things, including your education.

Young people want an end to child poverty and more financial support for families.

## Call 2

2

Fund every school to fully remove cost pressures from our families and help us overcome poverty-related barriers to learning

Young people want enough funding for all schools to take away costs from families and have enough staff to help young people with challenges or barriers they might have.

# Our School Shouldn't Cost manifesto

## Call 3



**Help us with the basics we need to learn, take part and feel included at school**

Young people want equal access to the basics that some families struggle to afford.

They are calling for Free School Meals for all, low uniform costs and grants for more families, 1:1 devices across Scotland and no charges for subjects.

## Call 4



**Opportunities for all. Help all of us benefit from life changing school trips and activities in our communities**

Young people want funding for everybody to go on school trips.

They want activities and opportunities in every local area that everyone can access, no matter how much money they have at home.

# Our School Shouldn't Cost manifesto

## Call 5



Involve us! We can help make our schools and Scotland better

Young people want the next government to listen to their views on what would help make their schools fairer for everyone, and act on them.





# What do you think?

- Which calls do you think matter most? What would help children and young people?
- Imagine the next government took action on all these calls – what would be better for children and young people?



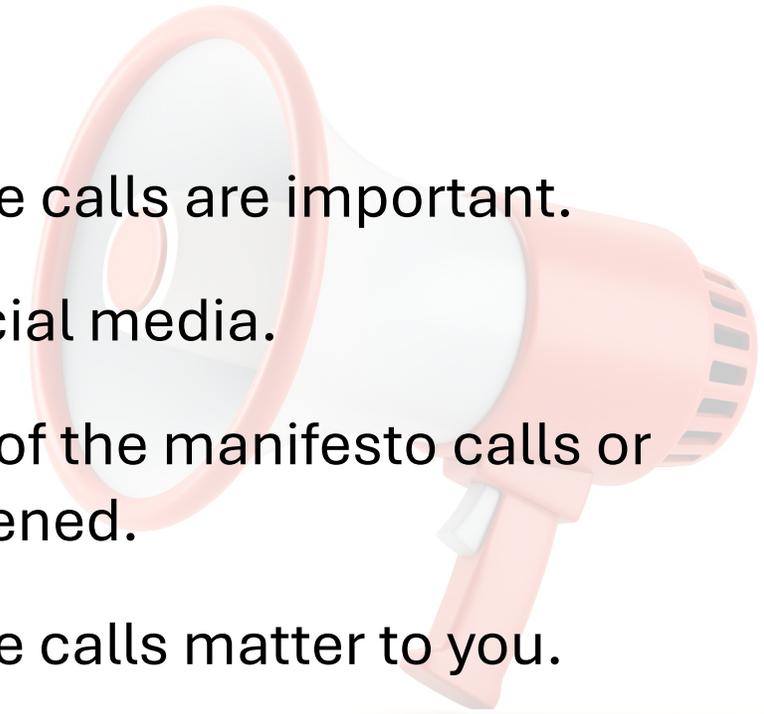


# What you can do to help

Join us and make sure politicians in every party hear about the School Shouldn't Cost manifesto and know that young people care about these issues.

## **Here are 5 things you can do to share the 5 calls:**

1. Write a letter or email telling politicians why you think these calls are important.
2. Get the #SchoolShouldntCost word out on your school social media.
3. Make a poster or drawing for politicians. It could be of one of the manifesto calls or could show what your school would be like if change happened.
4. Set up a meeting with your local MSP to tell them why these calls matter to you.
5. Get other young people involved. Get in touch with a neighbouring school, telling them about the manifesto and how they can get involved.



Thank you!

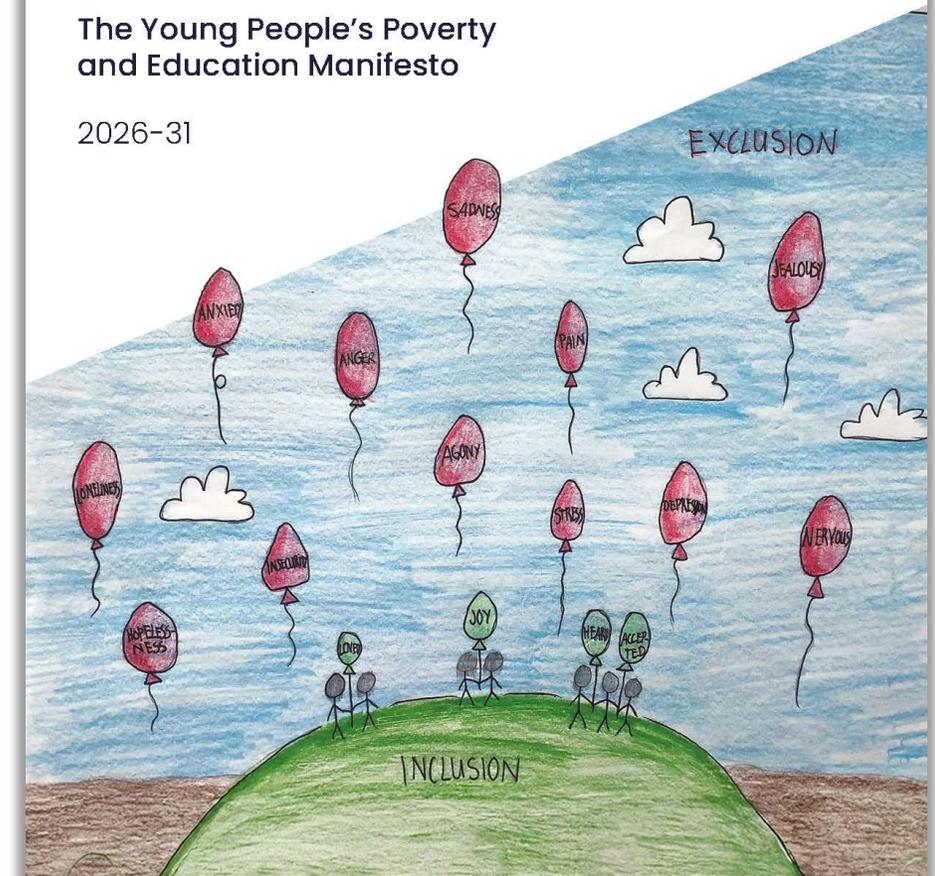


# School Shouldn't Cost



The Young People's Poverty  
and Education Manifesto

2026-31





1

End child poverty. Make sure our families have what they need so we can come to school ready to learn



2

Fund every school to fully remove cost pressures from our families and help us overcome poverty-related barriers to learning



3

Help us with the basics we need to learn, take part and feel included at school



4

Opportunities for all. Help all of us benefit from life changing school trips and activities in our communities



5

Involve us! We can help make our schools and Scotland better