

Ormiston Trust Commitments to the Power of Youth Charter

As a signatory to the Power of Youth Charter, supporter of the #iWill Movement and match funder to the #iWill Fund, Ormiston Trust commits to embedding youth voice, youth social action and meaningful participation across our work.

We will continue to create opportunities for young people across our network and beyond to shape decisions, develop skills, lead change and have their impact recognised.

1. Prioritise supporting young people to take social action

We will prioritise support for young people to take meaningful social action, particularly through schools and the wider communities connected to our work.

Our commitments are to:

- **Develop a strategic approach to youth engagement**
We will maintain a youth engagement strategy for the organisation and involve young people across multiple aspects of Ormiston Trust's work.
- **Prioritise funding for young people in schools**
We will continue to direct funding towards programmes and opportunities that enable young people in schools to participate, lead and make a positive difference.
- **Embed youth social action in our programmes**
We will ensure a significant focus on youth social action, with an emphasis on co-creating plans, projects and activities with students.
- **Sustain youth advisory structures**
We will continue to run the Ormiston Trust Youth Advisory Council and youth advisory sub-groups, enabling young people to inform both operational and strategic decision-making.
- **Promote diversity, equity and inclusion**
We will uphold an equal opportunities approach so that young people from all backgrounds and cultures are valued equally and can participate meaningfully in our work.
- **Support skills development**
We will place emphasis on students' skills development across our programmes, partnerships and youth engagement activity.
- **Prepare young advisors for their roles**
We will provide training and support for Young Advisors of the Ormiston Trust Youth Advisory Council so they feel confident, informed and equipped to contribute effectively.

2. Open up our decision-making structures

We will meaningfully involve young people in Ormiston Trust's decision-making structures, including grants decision-making, monitoring and evaluation, resource design and communications.

- Our existing Youth Advisory Council and youth advisory sub-groups provide an important foundation for this work and will continue to support young people's involvement in shaping decisions at both strategic and operational levels.
- We will embed youth engagement and leadership in future programmes that we develop.

- We will endeavour to involve our Young Advisors in the work of our Board of Trustees where possible and practical, and to provide them, and our Trustees, with the necessary support and training to enable them to engage effectively.

3. Work collaboratively with other organisations

We will identify, build and sustain partnerships with organisations that share our values and aims in supporting young people.

Through these partnerships, we will seek to strengthen opportunities for youth voice, youth social action and young people's leadership.

4. Evidence the benefits of youth social action

We will continue to undertake proportionate monitoring and evaluation across our programmes to understand the difference young people are making, working with independent evaluators and partners to ensure effective, and high-quality evaluation.

This will help us learn from youth social action, improve our work, demonstrate impact and share evidence of what enables young people to create positive change.

5. Recognise and celebrate young people's impact

We will continue to recognise and celebrate the achievements, leadership and contribution of young people.

This will include, for example:

- Conferences and events run by Ormiston Trust and the organisations we support;
- Participation in annual #iWill Week, Power of Youth Day and other key youth impact moments throughout the year;
- Social media, case studies and impact reports that highlight young people's contributions;
- Development of a youth awards programme, shaped and supported by our young advisors.

Through these commitments, Ormiston Trust will continue to champion the power of young people to shape decisions, strengthen communities and lead positive social change.

These commitments have been developed in consultation with the Ormiston Trust Youth Advisory Council and will be reviewed at regular intervals.