

The Wood Foundation

The Wood Foundation is committed to devising, delivering, and investing in programmes which develop the next generation of active citizens, contributors to the social and economic fabric of Scotland and the world.

Our programmes contribute to systemic change across education, addressing global and local citizenship, philanthropy, STEM, and skills development. We also continue to invest and amplify the efforts of charities working across Scotland addressing issues including child poverty.

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

YPI is an active citizenship programme which empowers young people to make a difference in their community. Since it was launched in Scotland in 2008, more than 200,000 young people have been engaged channeling grants of £4.5m to local charities.

YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered through the Scottish curriculum. In 2019/20, **275 Scottish secondary schools** were enrolled to participate in YPI across all 32 local authorities. More than half completed their programme activity pre-lockdown. The Wood Foundation adapted the YPI model and launched Your Community Fund for those who had not completed YPI to have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of their communities' responses to Covid-19.

Youth-led grant making through YPI and Your Community Fund resulted in **£623,000 being directed to charities across Scotland**.

YPI is working closely with practitioners on adaptations to the programme to ensure equitable, context-driven approaches so all pupils can continue to benefit from the active citizenship and skills development opportunities the programme offers in the 2020/21 academic year.

Our research shows that teachers believe YPI is developing essential skills in areas including communication, teamwork, and creativity. The contextualised learning experience offered creates a schoolwide opportunity and community legacy.



YPI has been cited in 24 HMIE reports since 2018, with specific reference made to the progressive focus on skills for learning, life and work, alongside its contribution to active, meaningful citizenship education.

Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE)

RAiSE empowers primary practitioners with the skills, confidence, and networks to develop and deliver engaging STEM experiences. 15 authorities have engaged in the programme to date, with more than 50,000 hours of professional learning delivered.

It is now open to national invitation, with authorities working in partnership with The Wood Foundation, Education Scotland, and Scottish Government to second a Primary Science Development Officer for a period of 23 months to develop the ambitions of the programme. Funding is available to support the secondment.

In 2019/20, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Clackmannanshire and Orkney joined the network which is anchored by the National Education Officer. The network created an online science planning resource which was launched during lockdown, offering significant support to practitioners. Professional learning sessions, once done in-person, moved online in the latter part of the academic year. The team continues to establish sustainable, impactful partnerships which bring STEM learning to life for primary age children. West Lothian is the latest authority to join the cohort.



14,765
Practitioner
engagements
with RAiSE
nationally

Global Learning Partnerships

Global Learning Partnerships empowers leaders of Learning for Sustainability through an immersive professional learning experience, including a placement in Uganda and Rwanda. This year's trip was cancelled but its network remained connected and collaborative.

The GTCS-accredited programme, which has attracted participants from 17 regions, is working with practitioners to continue developing global citizenship opportunities.



Excelerate

Excelerate is a pilot programme focused on system change in education. It is being delivered in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, investing in partnership-led education. Utilising the principles of project-based and interdisciplinary learning, Excelerate aims to inspire additional education and workplace pathways for young people. Through immersive professional learning and dedicated support for practitioners, the programme aims to further realise the opportunities of Curriculum for Excellence.

For more information on our programmes and investments, please contact: info@thewoodfoundation.org.uk

