

# YTAS Membership Values

Updated February 2025



Youth Theatre Arts Scotland is led by its [values and commitments](#), and aims to reflect them in all areas of work. YTAS also asks that its membership support and uphold these values.

## YTAS's values are...

- **Helping Others:** YTAS supports, enables, and champions.
- **Community:** YTAS are welcoming, respecting difference, providing inspiration, and building collective confidence.
- **Collaboration:** YTAS works with and connects a rich network of people and places.
- **Excellence:** YTAS encourages ambition, experimentation, and progression. YTAS always strives for quality.
- **Joy:** YTAS has an upbeat and positive approach.

## What these values mean in practice

As a member of Youth Theatre Arts Scotland, we agree to honour [YTAS's values and commitments](#), and will aim to reflect these across our own work.

### We will work proactively with Youth Theatre Arts Scotland to support the development of a strong youth theatre sector.

We will proactively identify areas of our practice that could be improved upon and will be supported by YTAS to facilitate positive improvements at an appropriate pace for our organisation. We will support other YTAS members to make improvements to their own practice in areas where we may be more established, becoming an active collaborator in the development of and advocacy of a robust youth theatre sector for the future.

### We support, enable, and champion children and young people to be active participants in our creative process.

We believe that young people should be involved in key decision-making to progress our creative process. We have clear mechanisms in place and appropriate resources which enable and empower young people to genuinely affect change, development, and progress.

### We understand that process and product are equally and mutually beneficial.

We agree that the 'process' is the core learning system a youth theatre adopts to develop the personal, social and creative ability of its young people. The 'product' is the conclusion of these processes. By employing a robust process, we ensure that every young person has an equal experience and can make the best product for their abilities. Striving for a quality product will not undermine the joy our young people gain from the process.

### **We strive to broaden our understanding of technique and approach to enrich the delivery of our activity.**

We're always ready to learn, are outward-looking, and receptive to external ideas and influences to enrich delivery. We will both make use of and enrich the sector's network to enable all young participants to benefit from the widest possible range of skills and experiences.

### **We work to broaden access for those who want to participate in our youth theatre activity.**

We agree that every young person in Scotland should have unrestricted access to a quality youth theatre experience and should not encounter barriers to access, either as creators or audience. We are not exclusive in our attitude, and we strive to remove barriers to our activity to promote participation which reflects and celebrates the diversity of Scottish culture.

### **We understand and implement current laws in relation to safe and appropriate youth theatre practice.**

The safety and welfare of participants, staff and audiences is of paramount importance to us. We have clear and documented courses of action to protect participants involved in all aspects of activity, and we have systems of reviewing which ensure that our policies and procedures are up to date and relevant.

### **We have effective evaluation systems to assess our creative and operational output.**

We believe in the benefits of reflection as a way of encouraging ongoing improvements, building on our strengths, and learning from our mistakes or weaknesses to help us strive for quality. We endeavour to regularly reflect on our practice and have solid systems in place which promote ongoing internal and external feedback.

## **Some fine print on supporting YTAS's values**

Membership of YTAS should not be presented as YTAS's approval or endorsement of activities. YTAS are not a governing body nor a quality assurance scheme.

YTAS reserves the right to terminate membership if a member causes the organisation to be brought into disrepute.

For support with any aspect of the YTAS Membership Values, please [get in touch](#).

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