



george town
**Youth
Impact
COUNCIL**

youth strategy

Created by the young people of the George Town municipality.
Supported by people who elevate the voices of young people
to inspire and encourage their futures.



 **Progressive**

 **Prosperous**

 **Proud**



acknowledgement of country

I would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the traditional custodians of this land, sea and sky. We pay respects to Elders past and present, and to all the young people who will carry our stories and culture into the future.

When I Look around this place, I see more than just land.

I see Country.

Country is the kanamaluka, the river flowing nearby, the wind moving through the trees, the black cockatoos flying overhead, and the animals that share this place with us. The black cockatoos is a symbol of our people.

For thousands and thousands of years, our people have walked here, gathered here, and cared for this land, waters and skies. This place has always been a meeting place.

As a young person, it means a lot for me to write this.

Because our generation is part of the story too. We are the ones who will continue caring for Country — protecting the rivers, the bush, the sea, and making sure this place stays strong for the future.

Community is important here. Whether you grew up here, just arrived, or you're visiting — we all share this place together.

I invite you to take a moment.

Look around.

Listen to the birds.

Feel the wind.

And remember that we all have a role in looking after this beautiful Country.

Thank you for being here, thank you for listening, and welcome to kinimathatakinta.

(Ash, 16)



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introduction

This strategy sets a clear direction for how young people (aged 12–25) are supported, show self-determination and can actively participate now and for the future of the George Town Municipality.

Young people really are proud of their community and want to be part of opportunities for growth.

This strategy has been created by local young people, to ensure they are not just considered, but engaged and active in local decision making, events, education and employment opportunities. Importantly, pride in community.

Pride of place brings people together to feel safe, co-create safe spaces and enhances the beauty in our community. Creating opportunities for learning outside of classrooms, ensures ongoing learning in our community, through connection, experience, and opportunity.

Young people know their voices matter as they become leaders in the local area. It is our job as Council, local businesses, community groups, sporting clubs and leaders to provide opportunities to build their capacity and support them.

council and community commitment

We care about the health and wellbeing of young people and we will:

- Support them to flourish and be heard by providing safe spaces to do so.
- Keep young people at the centre of planning of programs, events and opportunities for young people.
- Take time to engage in safe and collaborative ways.
- Support the wider community to work alongside our young people.
- Understand the health and wellbeing needs of young people
- Be considerate of the diverse needs for inclusion.





We want to do these things because:

our community is important and we can be part of developing it for the future

We will remember that young people are capable, motivated, and ready to help build a stronger, more inclusive George Town when we listen and learn together.



youth identified these priorities:

- Belonging** All young people feel included
- Opportunity** Local access to jobs and training
- Participation** Youth are involved in decision making



as young people we identify the following George Town Community Strategic Plan 2024-2030 areas, as foundational in this youth strategy:

Future Direction 1

- Formal and informal sporting and recreational opportunities for all.
- Community celebrations build the areas identity.

Future Direction 2

- A diverse and active volunteering base.
- Skilled local workforce for a diversified economy.
- Local business thrive and respond to local and visitor needs.

Future Direction 3

- Everyone in our community is valued and included.

Future Direction 4

- Positive mindsets across communities.

we also know that:

- Young people are a vital cohort to our population.
- Early engagement leads to better lifelong outcomes.
- Youth-led communities are more resilient and connected.

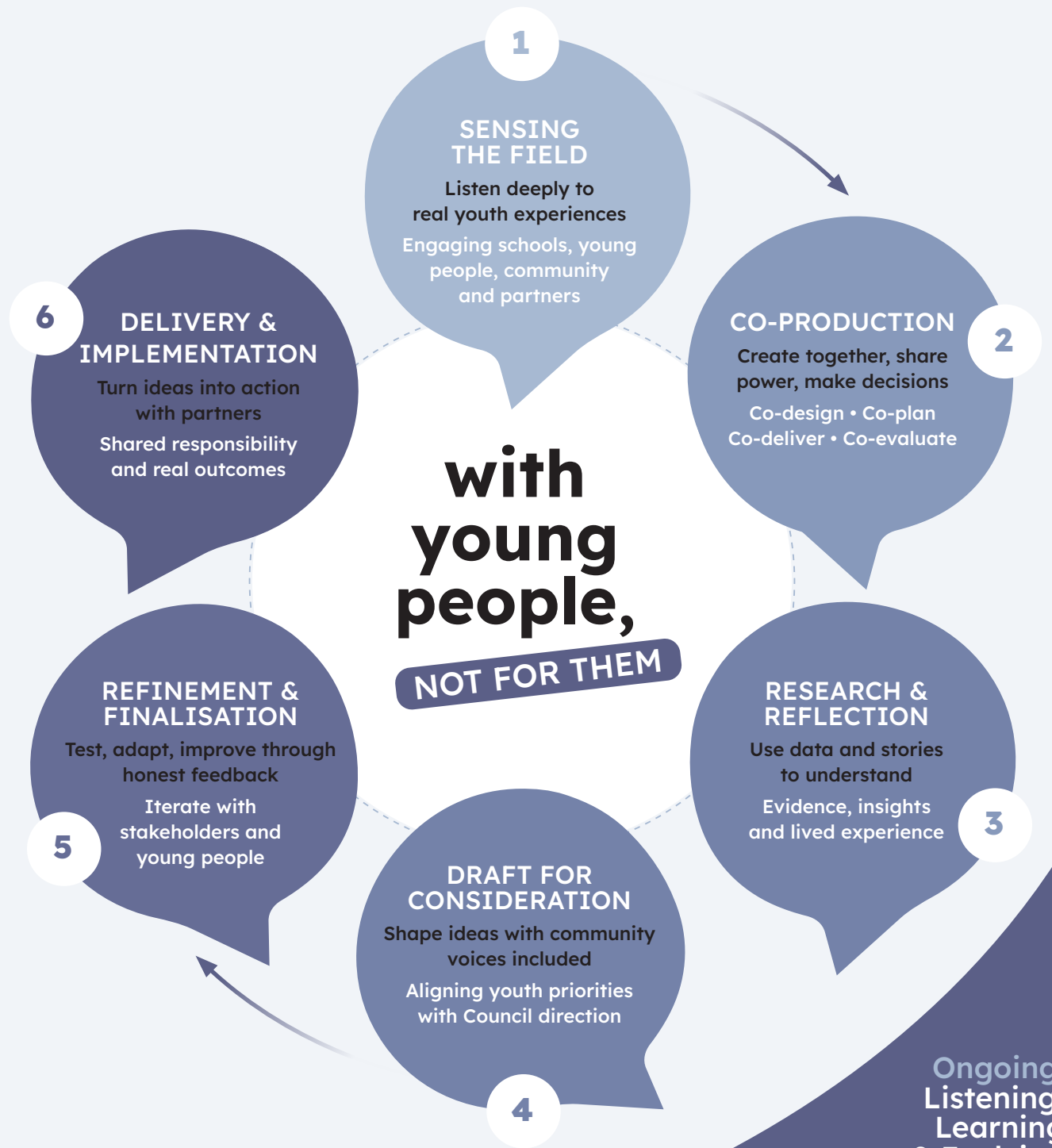
our four main themes:

Using Youth Our Futures reports, current Statistical local data and conversations with peers, the core working group of young people identified 4 important themes while working on this strategy. **Inclusion, Wellbeing, Safety and Environment**



youth strategy

a continuous co-production journey





Ongoing:
Listening,
Learning
& Evolving



george town community strategic plan 24-30

By using the GTCSP 24-30 as a foundation for this strategy, young people discussed and collaborated on the importance of their strengths, abilities and passions. These created clear themes that they want to see grow and how they can contribute to their communities.

Alignment Area 	Youth contribution as determined by young people 
Community	<p>Strong belonging, inclusion, participation</p> <p>Young people strengthen community by building connections, fostering inclusion, and actively participating in local life. They contribute through volunteering, peer support, and leading initiatives that bring people together. By sharing diverse perspectives and creating welcoming spaces, young people help shape a community where everyone feels valued, respected, and able to belong.</p>
Economy	<p>Skilled workforce, entrepreneurship</p> <p>Young people contribute to a strong local economy by developing skills, pursuing education, and engaging in employment and entrepreneurship. They bring innovation, adaptability, and new ideas to local industries. By supporting local businesses, exploring career pathways, and creating start-ups, young people help build a resilient, diverse, and future-focused economy.</p>
Environment	<p>Pride in place, sustainability leadership</p> <p>Young people play a key role in protecting and enhancing the environment by promoting sustainability, participating in conservation efforts, and leading local initiatives. They encourage responsible behaviours, raise awareness, and take pride in their surroundings. Through action and advocacy, young people help ensure a healthy, vibrant environment for current and future generations.</p>
Governance	<p>Youth voice in decision-making</p> <p>Young people strengthen governance by contributing their voices, perspectives, and lived experiences to decision-making processes. They participate in advisory groups, consultations, and leadership opportunities. By engaging constructively and advocating for transparency and inclusion, young people help build trust, improve decisions, and ensure policies reflect the needs of the whole community.</p>

inclusion

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young people said they want **EVERYONE** in our community to feel valued and included no matter what skills and ability they have



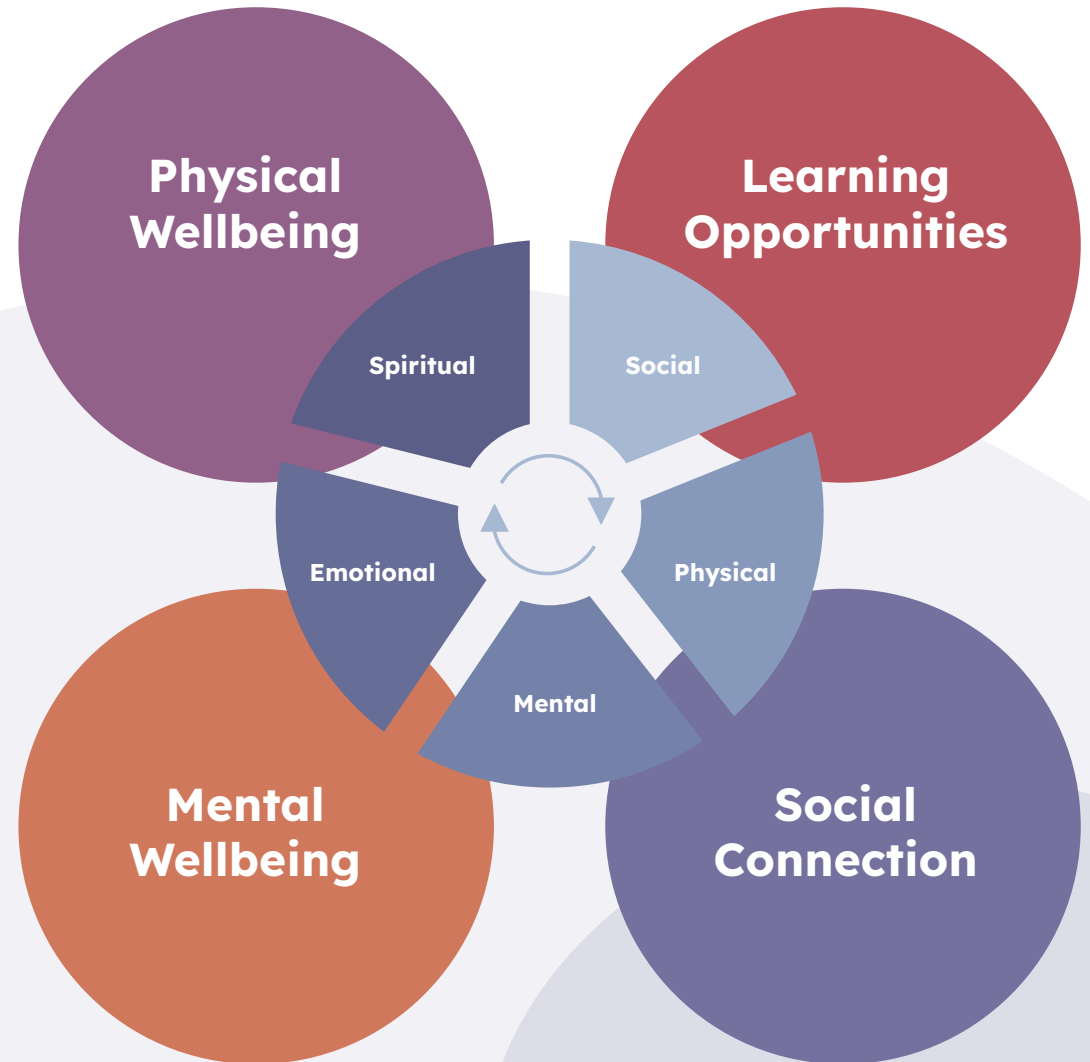
What Success Looks Like ▼	Actions ▼	Aligns to GTCSP ▼
Belonging All young people feel included	Young people are recognised as community assets and feel safe to use their voice and encourage other young people to do the same	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups work together • Young people have employment skills and pathways • Young people are a supported recognised community resource - a great asset!
Opportunity Strong collaboration across groups	Young people are involved in decisions including event, services and program creation	
Participation Clear employment and skill pathways	Youth have access to jobs, formal and informal skill development opportunities locally	



wellbeing



Young people said they want healthy, active, and connected young people and a community of learners, where young people teach and learn from each other

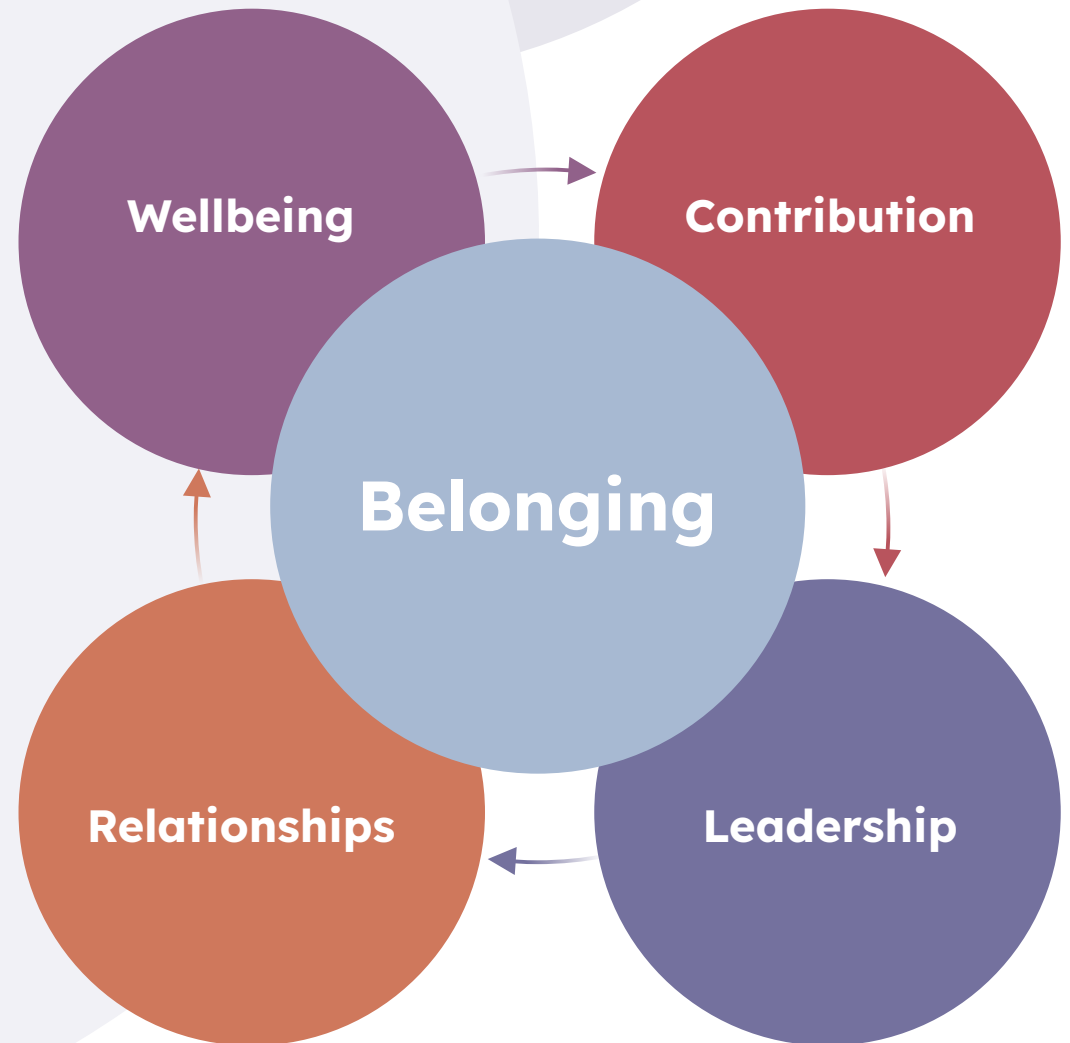





What Success Looks Like	Actions	Aligns to GTCSP
<p>Physical wellbeing Can participate in life, healthy and able no matter their ability</p>	<p>Young people have access to quality food and sporting opportunities of interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of learners • Healthy active communities • A culture of engagement, communication and participation • Collaborative working relationships with neighbouring councils and regional organisations • Local access to services and supports
<p>Mental wellbeing Can safely thrive as themselves</p>	<p>Young people have access to local supports and services without judgement</p>	
<p>Social connection Contribute to a strong culture of participation</p>	<p>Young people have spaces and places to connect and participate</p>	
<p>Learning opportunities Encouraged to share and support other young people</p>	<p>Young people are seen as leaders and educators within and outside the community</p>	

safety

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young people said that we all have a role to play to feel safe and secure in our community. Being supported in our community helps us belong and grow



What Success Looks Like 	Actions 	Aligns to GTCSP 
<p>Community safety We have safe physical and social environments</p>	<p>Young people’s safety concerns are being heard and their solutions are considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and secure communities • Responsive emergency services • Capable leadership in communities • Positive and productive working relationships with all levels of government • Fair and open planning and regulatory processes • Sustainable, connected housing and neighbourhoods
<p>Emergency response Youth are aware and ready to respond to emergencies</p>	<p>Youth are connected with local emergency services and other leaders for emergency readiness</p>	
<p>Leadership Youth voices are included in governance</p>	<p>Youth are involved in health, wellbeing and safety strategies from the beginning</p>	



environment ecological & natural

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young people said
they are proud of their
vibrant community,
want to see the people
and environment keep
thriving



Care for
Environment

Community
Action

Strong
Identity

Pride in
Place



What Success Looks Like ▼	Actions ▼	Aligns to GTCSP ▼
<p>Pride in Place We showcase the pride we have in our community</p>	<p>Youth share their stories and celebrate their local environments across different platforms, locally and broader</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All communities take pride in their place • A healthy and respected environment • Social infrastructure and services match growth and community needs • Sustainable and innovative waste management • Vibrant local community
<p>Care of environment Collectively we are all responsible for the environment</p>	<p>Young people are engaged in creating vibrant spaces and places that they can be proud of and have access to information, resources and opportunities to support the natural environment</p>	
<p>Community Action Youth are part of decision-making</p>	<p>Youth are actively involved in making decisions for our communities including sustainable growth and infrastructure</p>	
<p>Strong Identity We share the strengths in our community</p>	<p>Youth are actively celebrating the success of their community, sharing our success and pride inside and outside our community</p>	





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We want to do these things because:
forming healthy and positive relationships across the community is important for us now and for future generations

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We want to do these things because:
we have great ideas and like to be offered choices to contribute to planning

sources of youth voice opportunities for you to know about

- George Town Youth Impact Council
- Seagulls to Chips
- Youth Voice Collection Data
- Schools and education spaces
- Employers of young people
- Community events and conversations
- Arrange to join us at our clubs and networks like, cricket, footy, Neighbourhood house activities, library sessions, dancing or art spaces.



young people as partners: including young people in your role

- ✓ Join Council and community steering committees and decision-making groups
- ✓ Co-design youth events, programs, and community initiatives from the start
- ✓ Use our lived experience, connections, and passions to advocate for youth needs
- ✓ Share information, opportunities, and resources quickly through our networks
- ✓ Promote positive youth stories that build pride in our community
- ✓ Create and lead local events that celebrate our town year-round, not just special events
- ✓ Contribute ideas and insights to shape outcomes that matter to young people
- ✓ Provide honest, informed feedback when we are given clear information
- ✓ Respect and represent the diversity of youth voices and perspectives
- ✓ Learn by doing, alongside community, through hands-on involvement
- ✓ Collect and amplify youth voices through conversations, surveys, and events
- ✓ Work with developers, Council, and leaders on decisions affecting our future
- ✓ Advocate for and help create safe, inclusive spaces and places
- ✓ Protect and care for our environment through action and leadership
- ✓ Record and share stories using technology, and teach others how to do the same
- ✓ Reflect on what works, what doesn't, and how we can improve together
- ✓ Engage respectfully, embrace different ideas, and support community growth
- ✓ Work collaboratively and transparently with community groups and decision-makers
- ✓ Advocate for better access, transport, and services for all young people
- ✓ Challenge negative stereotypes and reshape the narrative about youth in our community

appendices and links:

- George Town Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Our Safeguarding Framework: Safe Secure Supported, Department for Education, Children and Young People
- The Voices for Tasmanian Youth - CCYP Reports
- Youth Network of Tasmania
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Youth Voice Collection, particularly 2025 - Future Impact Group
- Supported by Fiona Miller of the Jeder Institute

We want to do these things because:

we can be role models for social inclusion by showing and sharing that looking out for each other helps people to feel like they belong

communicate with us, not at us!

A checklist for more effective communication with children and young people.



include us ✓

Think about us: Have you listened to our views?

Diversity matters: Have you included all our voices, recognising that everyone is different?

Include our stories: Can you share real-life stories to make your messages more relatable?

Respect our rights: Have you considered our rights? Are you respecting our rights?

be real with us ✓

Be honest: Are you making promises you can keep?

Be transparent: Is all the information noticeable and easy for us to find?

Answer clearly: Will you give us truthful straightforward answers?

design with us, not for us ✓

Involve us: Have you asked us for our ideas when shaping your wording, design, and style?

Engage us: Are you using catchy titles, bright covers, and questions we care about?

Keep it clear: Is the information organised into logical parts we can understand?

Add creative visuals: Have you used themes, bold colours, icons, and artwork we've made or like-without overcrowding?

Make it easy to use: Are your channels simple, fun, and easy to navigate, with relevant hashtags, clickable links and alt tags? Are they accessible for children and young people of all abilities?

so it so we understand ✓

Use plain language: Is the language clear and direct without talking down to us?

Respect us: Are you talking about tough topics honestly and respectfully!

Explain clearly: Have you used examples to make complicated things clearer for us?

Use our language: Have you removed jargon and used language we use?

meet us where we are ✓

Mix it up: Are you using different channels that are age and developmentally appropriate—like apps, quizzes, games and websites—to share information with us?

Reach us where we are: Are you providing information in schools and other places we visit?

Make it safe: Have you included content warnings and ways for us to seek help if we need it?