

Camden Youth MP Election 2022

Samir Qurashi's manifesto (page one)

My name is Samir Qurashi. I'm 16 years old and I'm committed to becoming the next Camden Youth MP. Living and going to school in Camden all my life has enhanced my determination and dedication to be the voice for the young people of Camden and address all the issues young people face, whilst accentuating the opportunities there are for young people in Camden.

I have proposed a number of strategies to improve the lives of every young person in Camden.

1. Youth Safety

Knife crime, drug abuse and sexual assault / harassment are all epidemics that have flourished for many years in Camden. One in five young people have used more than one illicit drug in Camden. 11 out of the 13 state and private secondary schools in Camden were on the [Everyone's Invited list](#). I'm determined to prevent the exacerbation of these issues, so I will do my best to implement the following policies:

- **Investment into youth clubs and community centres:** All young people will be able to access mentors / counsellors and receive regular workshops on how to keep safe, whilst enjoying the facilities and activities available in the youth club
- **Regular PSHE and tutor time lessons** will educate students on how to deal with these issues, empower teachers and parents to take a stand against it and encourage bystanders to speak out.

2. Education and Opportunities

Black history is taught in only 10% of all schools, which shows that the curriculum in schools needs to be reformed. Only 8% of jobs go to young people in Camden, which is perhaps down to a lack of experience in the workplace or insufficient wages. I aim to develop numerous plans to diversify the curriculum and opportunities in Camden for all young people through:

- **Working with the Black Curriculum** to teach an accessible, educational [Black History curriculum](#)
- **Making work experience and school trips compulsory** for every school in Camden to enhance the employability skills and qualities of students
- **Increasing the minimum wage:** I will co-operate with the local council to bring about drastic improvements to the minimum wage young people across Camden are currently earning
- **Providing school holidays for religious festivals:** All students in Camden celebrating religious events like Eid, Diwali, Yom Kippur and Vaisakhi would be allowed to take up to three days off school to celebrate with friends and family.

For more about the Youth MP Election and candidates, visit [Camden Rise website](#).



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3. Mental Health and Wellbeing

One in six young people are likely to suffer from a mental health problem, which is the equivalent of five students in a class of 30. I am determined to execute plans and a wide range of opportunities for young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing:

- **Mental health counsellors / mentors:** Every child living and/or going to school in Camden will have access to a mental health counsellor / mentor to discuss any issues facing them
- **Mental health days off school or work:** A minimum of five days off school in an academic year will be given to each student to rest under suitable circumstances
- **Free gym memberships:** Young people aged under 18 will be given free gym memberships to access the gym to improve their physical wellbeing.

4. Environment and Climate Change

83% of young people, globally, feel that politicians and the government are failing to act adequately to combat the climate crisis, so I will enforce a range of strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and enhance the environmental quality of Camden:

- **Improving green spaces and parks and creating more free facilities like football pitches** that are easily accessible will be a priority to enhance the environmental quality of Camden
- **Through legalising both rental and privately-owned electric scooters** for use on public roads and cycle lanes, greenhouse gas emissions will vastly decrease
- **Public transport for all under 18s in Camden will be made free** to reduce congestion and air pollution
- **Reuse and recycling centres** will be established throughout Camden (which offer incentives) to motivate young people to recycle more.

Voting for me will ensure all the issues the youth face are addressed and every young person has access to the opportunities, support and facilities they deserve.

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