



Our guide on what to ask political candidates and campaigners

You can speak up for children this General Election.

This guide provides you with some information and top tips to help you have productive conversations about the changes you want to see for children with your local prospective parliamentary candidates or political party canvassers.

We also have some ideas for you on how to get children and young people involved in getting their views heard this General Election.

Why talk to political candidates and campaigners?

This General Election is our opportunity to create the change that children need. Your local candidates will be trying to win your vote and get elected to the UK Parliament, in Westminster. Politicians will be looking to commit to action on the issues they know voters care about.

This means people from a range of political parties will be out and about at events and may even knock on your door. If you want to have your say, this is a unique opportunity. This is your chance to speak up for babies, children and young people - and get politicians and political parties to as well.

What you can ask candidates and canvassers

We believe that every childhood is worth fighting for. We're asking the next Government to join us and prioritise keeping children safe.



If you choose to speak with prospective parliamentary candidates and political party canvassers, here are some questions you could ask.

If elected...

- 1. Will you and your party speak up for children?**
- 2. What will you and your party do to prevent abuse so every baby, child and young person can grow up safe and healthy?**
- 3. What will you and your party do to transform the online world so it's safe for children and young people?**

If you have any conversations you would like to share with us or if you have any questions, please get in touch with us at Campaigns@NSPCC.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you!

What are we asking for?

Together, we can give babies, children and young people the childhoods they deserve. We can stop abuse and neglect before it starts. For those children who have experienced abuse and neglect, we can make sure they get the support they need to recover and rebuild their lives.



That's why we're asking all political parties to commit to:

- Giving children the same protection from physical assault as adults
- Investing in early help services so children and families get support before they reach crisis point
- Supporting the early years of a child's life
- Keeping children safe in education
- Protecting children online
- Helping young people recover abuse

You can find out more in policy report [here](#).

Our top tips

- **Be prepared - make sure you know what you want to ask.**
- **Tell them why this is so important to you. Your voice matters.**
- **If you feel comfortable, share your experiences.**



How to get children involved this General Election

This is a perfect opportunity to start talking to the children and young people in your life about what's important to them and what changes they would like to see politicians make so all babies, children and young people can grow up safe and healthy.

This will help you with your conversations with prospective parliamentary candidates or canvassers. Find out if there's anything they would like you to ask so you can raise this in questions to candidates or canvassers.

Some young people (especially those who are 16 or 17 and will be voting themselves in the next couple of years) may want to come to the front door with you to have their say directly with candidates or canvassers. Together, you could practice what they would like to ask to make sure they feel confident.

For younger children, you can find an activity on the next page.



Get creative!

You can get children involved by designing a poster to put in your window. This helps let political candidates and canvassers know that you want to speak to them about their plans for children and young people. It will make your door stand out.

Need some inspiration? Together, write "I'm speaking up for children" in bubble writing, or print off our template on the last page, and colour the letters in.

Or get creative however you'd like!

We'd love to see your designs -

- You can send us a picture at Campaigns@NSPCC.org.uk
- Or tag us on Twitter/X and Facebook at @NSPCC or Instagram at @nspcc_official

You could also encourage your local candidate to take a picture with your child's poster to share on social media to show that they will speak up for children.

But double check you're not sharing any personal details, like where you live, before you post. You can also find advice on keeping your child safe online on [our website](#).

We understand this could bring up difficult conversations. We have a range of support and advice for parents and carers on the [NSPCC website](#).

If you have any concerns at all about a child's safety or wellbeing, then please contact the [NSPCC Helpline](#). It doesn't have to be an emergency. Our friendly team are here for guidance and support on a range of issues.

Young people can also contact [Childline](#) for support. Childline is here for every child and young person, every day of the year. Whatever issue young people are going through, no matter how big or small, our counsellors are here to listen and help.

NSPCC

I'm speaking up
for children