

The Character Curriculum

Flourishing for Life



<p>Y8: Democracy L1 - What is democracy?</p>	<p>Learning objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the meaning of democracy, parliament and the role of MP's and reflect on the virtues needed to be an MP. 	<p>Key vocabulary: Commons, House of Lords, constituency, general election, opposition, bill, cabinet, prime minister</p> <p>Key Virtues: Respect, participation, community awareness</p>
<p>Resources: PowerPoint presentations, resource sheet including – quiz and list of virtues</p>	<p>Statutory links: Citizenship guidance (2013) Pupils should be taught about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development of the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch; - the operation of Parliament, including voting and elections, and the role of political parties; - the precious liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom. 	
<p>Key questions:</p> <p>Who rules Britain?</p> <p>Has this always been the case?</p> <p>What was the case before democracy?</p> <p>Who rules in other countries?</p> <p>What groups are powerful?</p> <p>Should this be the case?</p> <p>What virtues do MPs need?</p>	<p>Learning activities:</p> <p>Starter:</p> <p>“The first duty of a man is to think for himself” — Jose Marti</p> <p>“Elections belong to the people. It’s their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” — Abraham Lincoln</p> <p>Ask students to reflect on these quotations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do these quotations relate to the realities of living in a democratic society? - Do you agree with their sentiment? Why? <p>Activity 1: Introduction to democracy, government and parliament.</p> <p>Take students through the quiz answering the questions and reminding them of the role of democracy, Government and parliament.</p>	

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- What does the term 'democracy' mean?
- Where is UK Parliament based?
- What is the Government?
- Who is the current Prime Minister?
- What is the difference between government and parliament?
- Why do we have parliament?

You might want to show this introduction video about parliament and democracy in the UK for a brief overview of how the system works. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAMblz3Y2JA>

Activity 2: Types of rule

Students look at the different types of leadership described in the table below.

- Which of the types of rule do you think is the best? Why?
- Are there any positives of the other styles?
- Can you think of any examples where you have seen these types of rule in the world?
- As somebody developing their character which of the styles of rule would allow you to flourish the most easily?

Anarchy	...a situation where there is no government at all
Totalitarian state	...a country where there is only one political party or one group of leaders, who have total power
Democracy	... a system of government where representative leaders are chosen by election
Dictatorship	...a system of government where one person or a small group rules, without having been chosen by the people

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Activity 3: What virtues does an MP need?

Students look at the Jubilee Centre list of virtues and identify suitable virtues for an MP.

- What does an MP do?
- What skills and virtues do you think you need to be a good MP?
- Which virtues do you think it is most important for MP's to possess?
- Are there any qualities that are missing?
- What are the most/least important qualities for MPs? Why?
- Could any of these virtues make it difficult to do the job well?

Activity 4: Why vote?

The video has introduced students to the concept of voting for an MP.

Students discuss the following questions:

- How important do you think it is to vote? Why?
- What makes a good voter? Which virtues do you think they need?

Research shows that the younger people are when they first vote, the more likely they are to keep on doing it.

- Do you think the voting age should be lowered to 16? Why?

Plenary:

- How does the government and the work of MPs affect you as a young person?
- What impact does government have on your family?