

The Character Curriculum

Flourishing for Life



<p>Y8: Democracy L2 - Voting</p>	<p>Learning objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand the implications of taking part in a democracy and the role of local MP's. 	<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 presentation</p>	<p>Statutory links: Citizenship (statutory guidance 2013)</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; - the nature of rules and laws and the justice system, including the role of the police and the operation of courts and tribunals. 	
<p>Key questions:</p> <p>Do you think it is important to vote? Why?</p> <p>What makes a good voter?</p> <p>What virtues do they need?</p> <p>Do you think the voting age should be lowered?</p> <p>What virtues have the role models shown?</p>	<p>Learning activities:</p> <p>Starter:</p> <p>Last lesson focused on what democracy is. Discuss with your partner what you believe democracy to be. Emphasise that a democracy is a government elected by citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the benefits of living in a democracy? - What are the challenges and tensions of living in a democracy? <p>Activity 1: Voting</p> <p>Voting was introduced in the last session. Discuss how voting is a right and a responsibility of living in a democracy.</p> <p>Many people in many different countries have struggled and died for the right to vote. In recent years in North Africa many young people protested and overthrew dictatorships for the right to vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is voting so important that people will risk their career and life to have the opportunity to vote? - What difference does it make who gets elected? 	



- How is voting a benefit?
- Why is it a responsibility?

One way that citizens give their opinion about issues is by voting for people who represent their views. Voting is an important responsibility, because our rights are determined through voting – mainly through electing our MP's and sometimes directly in national referendums (e.g. leaving the European Union).

What would happen if only half of the population was able to vote?

Activity 2: Role model – Mhairi Black

Mhairi Black is a Scottish politician. She has been the SNP Member of Parliament for Paisley and Renfrewshire South since 2015, when she defeated Labour Shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander. She was re-elected at the 2017 general election.

Black is the youngest member in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and she became an MP while still a final year undergraduate student at the University of Glasgow. She famously used the library in the houses of parliament to finish her third year University project whilst serving as a new member of parliament.

Black is a longstanding critic of Westminster arguing that not enough gets done in government and labelling parliament as being "excluded from reality". She has been outspoken on issues of poverty and jobs for people in her constituency.

- What virtues have she shown in her role?
- What barriers do you think she might have faced in parliament?
- What virtues would she have needed to have overcome them?

You can find out more about Mhairi Black and the work she's involved in at <https://mhairiblack.scot/>.

Activity 3: MP's election

The last lesson discussed ways in which MP's are elected to their role. You could look up your local MP to find out what issues they are campaigning for in your area <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>. You can also communicate with your local MP www.writetothem.com on any issue that you would like to raise.

When someone is considering their vote they need to think about a number of factors as they decide who to vote for.

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- What might a candidate say to gain your vote?
- What might they say that would cause you to vote against them?
- What would you say if you were trying to get elected?

Activity 4: Taking part

Democracy only works if ordinary people participate.

- What are the different ways that people can participate in democracy?
- In what ways are you able to get involved in democracy and politics?
- Which of the issues in your local community are important to you? What about on a national scale?
- Which of the issues in politics today do you find interesting?
- Do you feel strongly about any of the major policies/issues being discussed at the moment?

Discuss how students feel about the process of determining what is right when there are two sides to an issue.

- Is it possible to disagree well?
- What virtues do you need to display to take part in a robust debate?
- Can you think of any examples of when you disagreed strongly with a rule or issue in your community/school/home life?

Plenary: Moral dilemma

- What is the problem?
- How do you feel about the situation?
- Are there any virtues in conflict in this dilemma?
- What do you think a wise solution is?
- Is there more than one?