

Is it important to vote and why?

With the Government's plans to lower the voting age to 16 for all UK elections, our school is pleased to be participating in a vital new education programme with the [Electoral Commission](#).

The programme aims to answer the fundamental question:

Is it important to vote and why?



Through this curriculum, students will move beyond the headlines to understand the real-world mechanics of democracy.

Four strands of learning:



Creating a power map: Identifying who holds the power to change things, from the local council to national Parliament.



Investigating local issues: Researching community innovations and developing skills through a 60-second pitch.



The great local solutions debate: Learning the art of respectful debating and understanding the trade-offs in decision-making.



The 60-second democracy challenge: Entering a competition to express their views on the importance of the youth vote.

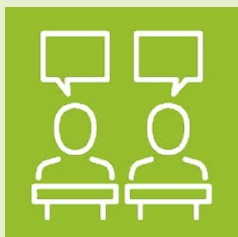
Developing informed and confident citizens

This programme provides skills that will last beyond polling day. By participating, students develop essential life skills:



Active listening:

Gaining a deeper understanding of different perspectives.



Respectful debating

Learning to disagree without conflict using logic and evidence.



Critical analysis:

Weighing up factors such as cost, speed, and fairness in community projects.

Completely impartial. The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections. They work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity. This project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of democracy and confidence to participate and provide opportunities for young people to debate robustly but respectfully.

Is your household ready?

Register to vote: Is everyone in your household aged 16 or over registered? If not, it only takes 5 minutes.

Election information: Find out when the next election is happening in your area.



The
Electoral
Commission