



Topic: Democracy

British Values - Spring 1 Year 5/6



New Vocabulary

Government	Individuals who have been elected and given authority to run the country, led by the Prime Minister (PM) in the UK.
Parliament	Has three parts: the House of Commons, House of Lords and the monarch. Its purpose is to debate, make laws and scrutinise the government.
A general election	A general election is when voters decide who their member of parliament (MP) will be.
Political party	A group of people with similar ideas/beliefs who come together to work to achieve their aims.

Did you know...

many countries have a democratic government including the United States, the UK, Canada, Mexico, South Africa, France, Israel and Japan?
That government is not the same thing as parliament?

Helpful hints

People in local areas can also vote for someone who will help to deal with local issues. They are called councillors.
Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are part of the UK and have their own parliaments that deal with local affairs.

New Knowledge

Democracies are important for many reasons. Some examples include for maintaining law and order to keep us all safe, it provides freedom of speech so we have the right to say what we think (as long as it's not hurtful) and it helps achieve equality (treating each other fairly and equally).

In the UK, we have **political parties**. In a general election, candidates from each part campaign to be elected in their own areas. The person with the most votes in each area becomes a **Member of Parliament (MP)**. The party with the most MPs forms the government. They are in charge.

The government leader is called **the Prime Minister**.

In England, the voting age is 18. However, there are other ways to get involved such as forming a school council or electing a pupil for a leadership role.



Prior Learning

In Early Years, pupils learned:

How to make decisions together
How to vote for things in the class, with the support of an adult
To give reasons for their choices

In Year 1 and 2 pupils learned:

When we **vote**, we choose someone or something.
An **election** is where a group of people votes.
We can **vote** for things we would like.

In Year 3 and 4 pupils learned:

Democracy means a form of government, which means 'rule by the people'.
We use a **ballot paper slip** when voting.
We have **elections** so everyone gets a say.
We have the **right to vote** in the UK.
Every country that holds elections sets its own rules about who can vote.