

British values

Our values

My values



Democracy

Name:

Date:

Teacher:

Democracy

Democracy means:

Citizens can have a say about who makes the big decisions in their country.

Citizens can find out information about lots of different things and share their opinions (e.g. read the news and then talk about this with their friends)

Citizens can make decisions and share their opinions about things that matter to them (e.g. discussing school uniform)

Britain is a democratic country and citizens that live here are encouraged to have their say and share their opinions.



Task – Write your own definition of democracy in **exactly** 20 words

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, designed for writing a definition. It has a small triangular tail pointing downwards and to the left, similar to a speech bubble or a callout box.

Who makes the big decisions?

Every five years, citizens can vote for who they want to lead the country.

The UK is made up of lots of small areas called **constituencies**. In each constituency, a small number of people are trying to win a seat in **Parliament** (the special place in London where big decisions about the country are made). These people will normally be a member of a much bigger group, these groups are called **political parties**. Each political party has different opinions about what should happen in the UK, people vote for the person or political party that they like the best.

Whoever gets the most votes in each constituency wins the parliament seat and becomes the **Member of Parliament** (MP) for that area. Whichever political party gets the most seats on the whole, can form a **government** (run the country) and the leader of the winning political party becomes the **Prime Minister** (leader of government)

The government will play an important role in shaping the country as they will make big decisions about health, education and lots of other things. They must also make sure they are listening to the citizens of the country, as it is their job to help us!

But what about the Queen?

The UK has a **monarchy**, this means we have a royal family and the queen is Head of State. However, the British Monarchy is known as a **constitutional monarchy**. This means that, although the queen is Head of State, the power to make laws and run the country is passed to the government, as they were chosen by the citizens of the UK.



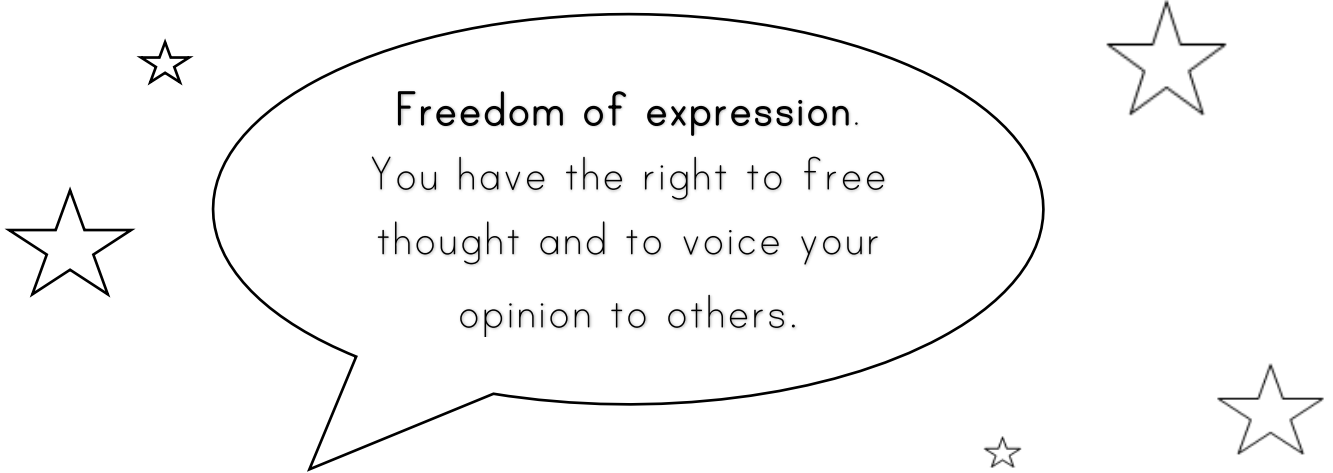
Task – Work with a partner to see if you can remember what these key words mean. Which could you remember? Which did you find tricky?

Constituencies	Parliament	Political parties	Member of Parliament
Government	Prime Minister	Monarchy	Constitutional Monarchy

Democracy and Human Rights

For democracy to work, human rights need to be promoted. It's very important that people can find out information about what is happening locally, national and globally and talk about this with others.

Debating issues and sharing opinions is important for a democracy to work.



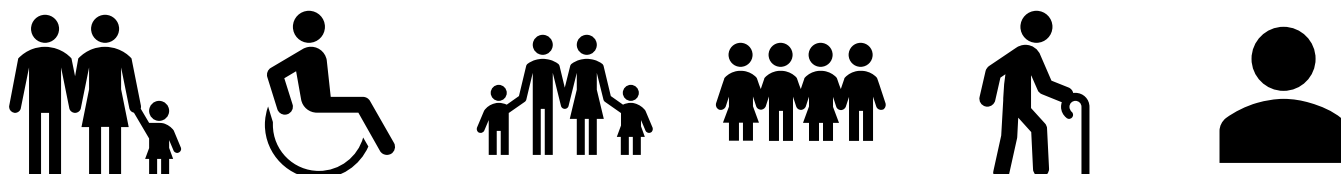
Task – Why is it important to listen to opinions that are different to your own?

Local democracy




Local people can vote for who they want on their local council. The local council make decisions about the local area, these areas are called wards. They listen to what local people like and don't like about the area and try to make the ward a great place to live.

Local councils provide services such as libraries, leisure centres and youth clubs. They also help with practical things like making sure the roads are safe and rubbish is collected.

Local councils have a tricky job because they must look after the needs of everyone living in the ward.




Task – Sit with someone that lives in the same ward as you. Talk about your local area and try to fill in the table below. Once complete, you could find out the name of your local councillor and write them a letter telling them what you like and don't like about your ward, you could also share with them all your super ideas for improvements.

	What do you love about your ward?
	What do you not like about your ward?
	What ideas do you have about improving your ward?

A to Z of remarkable representation


People that represent others on a school council, local council or as an MP need to have special skills and qualities.

 **Task** - Can you think of a word (adjective) or statement beginning with each letter of the alphabet, that describes the perfect person for the job? E.g. A - able, B - brave, C - can get on well with others. Who can complete the task first!

Ready, steady, go!		N	
A		O	
B		P	
C		Q	
D		R	
E		S	
F		T	
G		U	
H		V	
I		W	
J		X	
K		Y	
L		Z	
M		Task complete.	

What would you do?

Living in a democracy doesn't just mean you can vote, it also means, that once you turn 18, you can try and become a local councillor or MP yourself. To have one of these very important jobs, you need to write a manifesto, this tells everyone what you hope to do if you become elected. Your manifesto must be realistic, and it should appeal to as many people as possible.

 **Task** – Write a manifesto. Think about all the fantastic ideas you must make your local area a better place to live. Also consider the skills and qualities that you have that would suit the role.

Once you have created your manifesto, you could share your ideas with the class and find out whether they would vote for you!

