




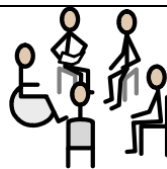


# Activities for all

These activities and information pages have less text and more structure. Many of these activities include symbols to aid communication. These activities may suit children in primary schools or in community groups. Activities are also designed to provide scaffolding for older learners, including but not restricted to those with additional learning needs. It will be helpful for school councils and other community participation groups.










Comisiynydd  
Plant Cymru  
Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales







# Key words

Activism		Peaceful actions taken to bring about change.
Member of the Senedd (MS)		A person elected to the Senedd/ Welsh Parliament. Every area in Wales has a Member of the Senedd.
Banner		A flag or poster that has a message.
Campaign		An effort to make a change. Campaigns can take a long time, or be very short.
Children's Rights		Things all children and young people under 18 need to be happy, healthy and safe.
Citizen		A member of a nation.




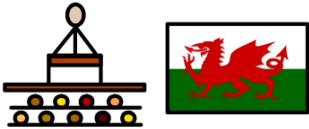





Community Council		A group of local people that make decisions, run activities and stand up for their community.
Council		A group of people who have been chosen to represent other people's views in their local area.
Democracy		In a democracy, people can choose who represents them and makes decisions that affect them.
Election		In the UK, an election is when people choose a politician to represent their local area.
Governing Body		A group of people that make decisions about what happens in a school.
Government		The Government is in charge of how the country works.
Houses of Parliament		The place where MPs make laws for the UK.






Human Rights		The rights all humans have to be equal, safe and to enjoy a full life.
Lobby		Trying to persuade decision makers to make a change. There are lots of ways to lobby, including letters, petitions and events.
Local Authority		The UK is divided into local areas that make decisions about that area. There are 22 local authorities in Wales (e.g. Ceredigion, Torfaen).
Member of Parliament (MP)		A person elected to the UK parliament. Every area in Wales has an MP.
The Senedd		The place where Members of the Senedd make laws for Wales.
Petition		A statement asking for change that is signed by lots of people. Petitions can be made on paper or online.

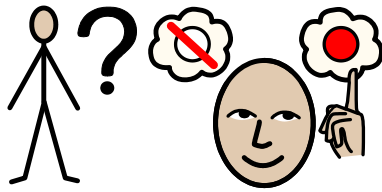


Politician		Politicians make laws and stand up for the people that they represent. AMs and MPs are politicians.
Protest song		A song written or performed to try and raise awareness of a problem or make a change.
Representative		A politician who has been voted for and must stand up for the people in their area.
Senedd		This is the Welsh name for the Welsh Parliament, but people often use it when they speak English too.
School Council		A group of pupils that make decisions, run activities and stand up for other pupils in their school.
United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)		A list of all the rights that all children under 18 need to be happy, healthy and safe.
Wellbeing		Keeping happy, healthy and safe.

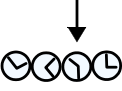







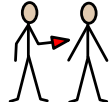
Westminster		The place in London where the Houses of Parliament are.
Youth council		A group of young people that make decisions, run activities and stand up for other young people in their area or community. A youth council is sometimes called a youth forum.
Welsh Youth Parliament		60 young people aged 11-18 elected by other young people in Wales to talk about the things they want and need.








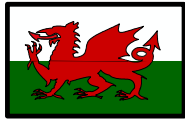
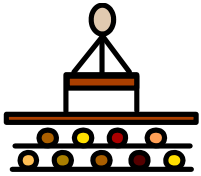


## Who makes decisions?

 Sometimes, it  is difficult  to know  who  to contact  to make a change.

 This  information  might  help  you.

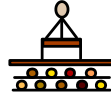
 You can also  ask  an adult  to help  you.



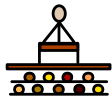
## Members of the Senedd



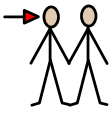
60



There are 60 Members of the Senedd.



Members of the Senedd make laws and decisions for Wales.



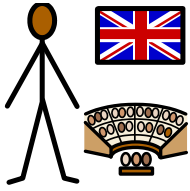
e.g.



They only do this for some things, like health and education.







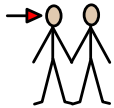
## Members of Parliament (MPs)



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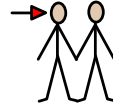
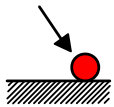
Members of Parliament make laws and decisions for the UK.



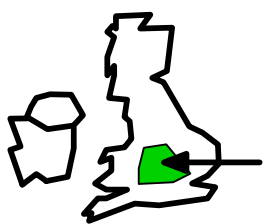
e.g.



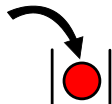
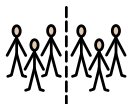
They only do this for some things, like policing and immigration.



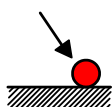
There are 650 Members of Parliament. They work in Westminster.



## Local Authority



The UK is split into local authorities.

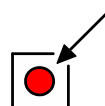


22



e.g.

There are 22 local authorities in Wales e.g. Powys, Bridgend.



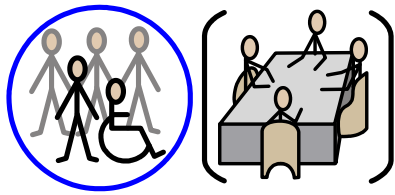
Local authorities make decisions about things in the local area.

e.g.



These are things like libraries, roads and houses.

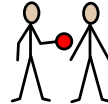
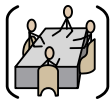
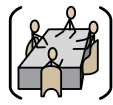




## Community Councils

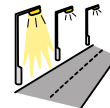


Some places have community councils.



Community councils make decisions about your community.

e.g.



These are things like playing fields and street lights.



# Extension Activities

These use more text. They include more detailed information and less scaffolding in activities. These resources may suit young people in secondary school settings, Further Education settings, or in youth participation groups and youth community groups. They will be helpful for secondary school councils and other pupil voice groups in secondary schools.



# Get the facts

It can be difficult to know how to get the right information about what's going on in the world. There are different opinions, misleading headlines, and fake news stories, as well as troll accounts and bots.

Here are some **top tips** on how to navigate all this info, so that you can get the facts!

## 1. Think about the source

- a. If it's a social media account, look at the source. What does the person or company behind the account stand for or do? Why do they want to share this view?
- b. If it's a newspaper/online article, research the author and the website: do they represent a political standpoint? Are they trying to sell a product? What might they gain if others agree with them?

## 2. Read carefully

- a. Remember that headlines are designed to get attention and get clicks. You'll need to read the whole article to work out what is actually being said.
- b. Read the 'supporting sources' included in the article, e.g. links to studies. Do they actually support what the article claims?

## 3. Do some fact checking

- a. You can use sites to check the facts you're reading. Here are some examples of fact checking sites:
  - UK fact checking: <https://fullfact.org/>
  - Media fact and bias check: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>
  - US fact checking: <https://www.factcheck.org/>

## 4. Don't get caught out

- a. Check the date the article was published. Sometimes old news stories are reposted if they seem relevant, but that doesn't always mean they apply to a current issue.
- b. Check your own opinions — might your own beliefs and political opinions be affecting your judgement?
- c. Check it's not a joke! If it seems over the top, it might be satire. Be particularly vigilant on April Fools' Day!

## 5. Keep up with the news!

- a. Keep up with the news to know about issues arising or being uncovered, and what's going on in the world.

# Activity

This activity is a taster activity for you to test how to spot an unreliable source.

The example posts are not real posts but have been based on online content.

Do the activity in pairs or small groups.

## Spot the Difference



1. Below is a pair of social media posts about the climate school strikes. Get a pen and circle the differences between the two posts about the climate school strikes.
2. How many differences have you found?
3. Which post do you think is the most reliable, and why? You can use the top tips to help you make your decision.


**Journalist 1**  
@Journalist1

Follow

16-year-old girl preaches at room full of politicians about why she's refusing to go to school.

Greta Thunberg addresses UN climate summit



 1.4k  800

**Journalist 2**  
@Journalist2

Follow

Climate change activist relays climate truths to audience of politicians.


Greta Thunberg addresses UN climate summit

 1.4k  800

## Extension

Repeat this activity for the two topics below.


Topic Two: A woman is given a prison sentence

**Journalist 3**  
@Journalist3

Follow



Small group of protestors gather at court as woman who stabbed MP is handed a 15-year sentence.  
Protests at Old Bailey for MP stabbing sentencing

 1.4k  800

**Journalist 4**  
@Journalist4

Follow

Mob of fanatics leave court raging even though attempted murderer got only a short 15-year sentence.  
Protests at Old Bailey for MP stabbing sentencing

 1.4k  800





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Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales

Topic 3: Fewer people from the European Union work in the National Health Service than in previous years.



**Journalist 5**

@Journalist5

Follow

European staff making up more than half of NHS workforce leaving due to Brexit.

Decline in EU NHS workers continues



1.4k



800



**Journalist 6**

@Journalist6

Follow

Brexit will create thousands of NHS job opportunities when it drives out European workforce.

Decline in EU NHS workers continues



1.4k



800

Enjoyed this activity? Check out an example of negative media portrayal [here](#), and learn how to analyse media articles [here](#) in our tackling Islamophobia resources.

# Who makes decisions?

## The Senedd/Welsh Parliament

Members of the Senedd sit in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. It's also called the Welsh Parliament. There are 60 Members of the Senedd (MS), and they're elected every 5 years. They make decisions on matters like health care, public transport, and what you learn about in school. These are just some of the areas that Members of the Senedd in Cardiff are responsible for. All of these decisions used to be made by Members of Parliament in London, but in 1997 Welsh people voted to have their own parliament so they could make their own decisions about certain areas of their lives. This process is called devolution.

Here is a list of the areas that the Senedd can make decisions about:

- Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development
- Ancient monuments and historic buildings
- Culture
- Economic development
- Education and training
- Environment
- Fire and rescue services and promotion of fire safety
- Food
- Health and health services
- Highways and transport
- Housing
- Local government
- Public administration
- Social welfare
- Sport and recreation
- Tourism
- Town and country planning
- Water and flood defence
- Welsh language

## Houses of Parliament

The Houses of Parliament are in Westminster in London, they're divided into two chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to sit in the House of Commons. The Houses of Parliament make laws and decisions on areas that **are not** devolved to The Senedd, these are called reserved powers. MPs are elected in a general election, which usually happens every 5 years.

These are issues that the Houses of Parliament makes decisions about. These are called 'reserved powers'.

- Crime and justice
- Defence (how the UK defends itself)
- Foreign Affairs (how the UK communicates and works with other countries)
- Immigration
- Trade (how businesses in the UK buy and sell goods)
- Broadcasting (rules about the content we watch and listen to on TV, radio, and online)

## Local Councils

**Powers to make decisions about a local area.**

Wales has 22 councils. Councils are made up of councillors who are elected every 4 years in local elections.

This is a list of things that a local council makes decisions about:

- Planning and building control
- Education
- Trading standards
- Alcohol, entertainment and gambling licensing
- Health and safety
- Libraries, leisure and tourism
- Environmental health and rubbish collections
- Transport and highways
- Housing
- Social services

## Community Councils

There are also 730 community councils in Wales, which can be responsible for anything between 200 and 45,000+ people. Your community council might be in charge of issues that only affect your local community, for instance, your local park.

## Who to contact

It can be difficult to know whether an issue you want to change is the responsibility of the Senedd, the Houses of Parliament, or a Local or Community Council. Look at the lists of powers, and think about who would be best to contact about the issue you want to raise.

It's worth asking your teacher, another adult you trust to help you. You can also contact more than one of these organisations at the same time.

## Top-tip

'Cc' the Children's Commissioner into letters you send to MPs or AMs. This helps the Commissioner know what you want to change.