

# Project Vote

Spring Special  
Mission

KS2



Comisiynydd  
Plant Cymru  
Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales

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## **Special Mission:**

Although children under 16 cannot vote in the Senedd elections, all children in Wales have the right to be listened to and taken seriously (Article 12).

Children may feel that some of their rights are currently being denied, or they may be passionate about a particular issue, and want to make a change.

We have prepared two lessons on Senedd elections and democracy for you to do in class.

Your Special Mission this term is to tell us what change you would make, if you were First Minister for the day. You might want to change something in your local area or community or change something big, which affects everybody in Wales.

Complete the "If I was First Minister..." activity sheet to tell us. You could collect all of the answers from your class or group and turn it into a piece of art or a big written piece from your school.

Tell us what you would change by 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. You can email us at [post@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:post@childcomwales.org.uk) or Tweet us @childcomwales.

The following lessons have been created to complement [Project Vote](#): a parallel election designed for children and young people aged 11 - 15.

*As primary schools, you are welcome to take part in the parallel election if you feel it's suitable for your learners.*



Simply go to the [Project Vote](#) website where you will be prompted to fill a simple form. We will then contact you to add you to our database to receive a link to an e-ballot in April.

We have created worksheets for pupils to complete independently at home and have suggested a complementary live lesson/ face to face session to support pupils learning.

By the end of the lessons pupils will:

- Understand the difference between the Senedd and Westminster
- Link elements of their own lives with politics
- Learn what a political party is
- Have a better understanding of how the Senedd works



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## Lesson one: The Senedd

If you are delivering this lesson online, we recommend you break the lesson into 3 separate lessons so pupils can complete the independent activity after each session.

Live Lesson/ Face to Face	Additional information/ Resources	Independent remote learning activity
<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <p>Show pupils a picture of the Senedd.</p> <p>Does anyone know what this building is called?</p> <p>Does anyone know where this building is?</p> <p>Why is this building important to Wales?</p> <p>Explain that the Senedd is in Cardiff. It's where people, called Members of the Senedd, make decisions about Wales.</p> <p>Show students a picture or video of a Member of the Senedd (MS). Ask if any students recognise this person.</p> <p>Explain that they are a Member of the Senedd, someone who works in the Senedd building and makes decisions about Wales.</p> <p>There is also another important building in the UK that makes decisions. Show pupils a picture of Westminster. This is where the House of Commons is,</p>	<p>You can find the Members of the Senedd who represent your area by using the Senedd website - <a href="https://senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-senedd/">https://senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-senedd/</a></p>	<p><b>After introduction pupils can fill in <a href="#">Activity sheet one</a>.</b></p>

<p>where Members of Parliament (MPs) meet.</p> <p>Tell pupils you are going to be focusing on the Senedd, which is where Members of the Senedd (MSs) meet.</p>		
<p><b>MAIN:</b></p> <p>Explain to pupils that you will be thinking about an election.</p> <p>An election is where people vote to decide who should be in charge of something.</p> <p>Explain that in May 2021 there will be a big election in Wales to decide who will become Members of the Senedd. The Senedd is a group of people who make decisions in Wales.</p> <p>Explain that the election in 2021, will be exciting because young people aged 16 can vote for the first time.</p> <p>Tell students you're going to think about why people vote.</p> <p>Ask students to <a href="#">look at the worksheet</a>. Ask them to circle or mark all the things they use. You could start by all circling one the group has in common (e.g. in a school setting, they all go to school / we all need healthcare).</p>	<p>Extension: Westminster or Senedd <a href="#">powerpoint</a>. Use our Westminster or Senedd powerpoint</p>	<p><a href="#">Activity sheet 2</a> can be filled in after this discussion</p>

<p>Ask students whether they think these things are important.</p> <p>Explain to students that the people in the Senedd make decisions about all of these things. For example, some of the things that they learn in school and how well we recycle waste in Wales.</p> <p>So, people vote to make sure that the people in Senedd care about the same important things as them.</p>		
<p><b>REFLECT</b></p> <p>Ask pupils to share the facts they can remember.</p> <p>Explain that in the next lesson you are going to learn more about the Senedd, the people who work there and how they get their jobs.</p> <p>End the lesson with one last guessing game. Show a picture of Boris Johnson and Mark Drakeford. Ask pupils:</p> <p>Who can tell me their names?</p> <p>Does anyone know their job titles?</p> <p>Which one of these people work in the Senedd?</p> <p>Which one of these people work in Westminster?</p>		<p><b>At the end of the session pupils can fill in <a href="#">Activity sheet 3: Who am I?</a></b></p>

## **Lesson 2: How the Senedd works**

This activity will need support of a live lesson to explain the worksheet to pupils.

<b>Live lesson/ Face to face</b>	<b>Additional information/ resources</b>	<b>Independent remote learning activity</b>
<b>Introduction:</b>		

<p>Explain to pupils that in this session they are going to learn about how the Senedd works.</p> <p>Remind pupils that last lesson you looked at the different decisions members of the Senedd made (show pupils the picture sheet and re-cap learning).</p> <p>Tell pupils that most of the time, members of the Senedd belong to a 'party'.</p> <p>People who belong to a political party usually have similar ideas and want to make the same changes to the country.</p> <p>Tell pupils that when somebody votes, they are voting for a person to win a place in the Senedd (a seat). The person with the most votes in each part of the country wins a seat. Each person usually belongs to a party, which means that the party has also won a seat.</p>	<p>You might want to give an example here</p> <p>e.g. Mrs Jones is part of the Banana Party. If Mrs Jones won the most votes in her area, she would win a seat. This also means the Banana Party wins a seat, because Mrs Jones is a member.</p>	
<p>Share the diagram of the 60 circles. Explain to pupils that there are 60 different politicians who work in the Senedd. Most of the politicians will belong to a party.</p> <p>Each party has things that they would like to change, the more people they have in the Senedd the easier it is for them to make a change.</p>		



<p>This all sounds VERY complicated but it's not.</p> <p>Explain that you have given each child an activity sheet, on the sheet there are THREE parties. Party A, Party B and Party C. Ask pupils to agree a colour for each Party.</p> <p>Ask pupils to complete the activity sheet and then come back together to discuss their answers.</p>		
<p><b>Main:</b></p> <p>Go through the questions on the activity sheet to ensure that pupils have the correct answers.</p> <p>Ask pupils:</p> <p>Which Party has the most members?</p> <p>Which Party has the least members?</p> <p>Tell pupils that Members of the Senedd have to vote, in the Senedd, in order to make a change, such as passing a law.</p> <p>A majority (normally more than half) of members will need to vote for something to make it happen.</p> <p>Ask pupils:</p> <p>Who would find it easier to make a change? Party A, Party B, or Party C?</p>	<p>You could create a scenario here</p> <p>e.g. Party C wants to give every person in Wales a pet puppy. Party B wants to give every person in Wales a pet kitten. Which party would most likely win the vote? (Party B is the biggest party so would probably win the vote)</p>	<p>Pupils should return to the session with the activity sheet completed (Senedd Activity)</p>

<p>Answer: Party B. They already have more than half of the seats, so if all of the Party B members voted for the same change, that change would happen.</p> <p>Parties A and C would need to convince the other parties that the changes they want are a good idea. Otherwise, if only they voted for their change, they would not get more than half.</p> <p>It's easier to make changes in the Senedd when you have lots of members of the same party</p> <p>After the election, all members vote for who they want to be First Minister. The First Minister goes on to lead the Welsh Government, and is in charge of running the country.</p>		
<p><b>Reflect:</b></p> <p>Ask pupils:</p> <p>How many seats there are in total in the Senedd?</p> <p>What is a political party?</p> <p>Is it easier for big parties or small parties to make changes in the Senedd?</p> <p>Tell pupils that for their final task, they will be imagining that they are the First Minister of Wales. Ask</p>		

them to think about what sort of things they would try and change. It might be something big or something small!

### Activity 1

*Fill in the missing words*



This building is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

This building is in \_\_\_\_\_.

Cardiff is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Wales.



This building is called  
\_\_\_\_\_.

This building is in  
\_\_\_\_\_.

London is the capital city of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Missing words**

The United Kingdom (UK)

Senedd

Westminster

Cardiff

Capital city

London

**Activity 2: Who makes decisions?**

*Think about a normal day for you. What happens? Where do you go? Write a timetable for your day below.*

<i>Time</i>	<i>What happens</i>


Look at the [picture sheet](#). Circle any of the things that match your timetable.

Did you know that the Senedd (Welsh Government) make decisions about those things?

### **Activity 3: Who am I?**

*Look at the pictures below. Can you fill in the blank spaces?*



My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am the \_\_\_\_\_.

I work in the \_\_\_\_\_.



My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am the \_\_\_\_\_.

I work in \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Missing Words**

Westminster

First Minister

Boris Johnson

Senedd

Prime Minister

Mark Drakeford