



Thinking Focus: **Politics**

How power is used to organise and govern people.

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

Maria Montessori



Curriculum Focus

Today's pupils are tomorrow's citizens and voters. They, like us, are exposed to an increasingly complex world which is shaped by powerful politics, horrific war, accelerating technology and information that is often neither accurate nor reliable. Maintaining core human values at national scale, ensuring economic growth and protecting our planet all require a mature engagement in politics and the foundations of this must be laid in primary school.

Knowledge, Skills & Values

Pupils will learn how politics and governance are necessary for the peaceful and fruitful growth of nations but they will also get to grapple with the force of diverse political opinions. They will be able to practise discernment in decision making and contemplate the way history, culture, values and beliefs can lead to political opinions and actions.

Starting Points

Text

<https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Government>

Rank the 5 kinds of government by how much you'd like to be part of that government.

Data

<https://ourworldindata.org/democracy>

Work hard in a team to find one graph or chart that you understand well. Present it to another team.

Map

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WmoMQdUGGM>

Watch the video and summarise it in 15-20 words.

1. Basic Questions/Tasks

Define 'Politics' in less than 20 words.

Find/research/investigate and record creatively:

- 10 words linked to politics
- 8 images linked to politics
- 4 different kinds of government
- 2 problems with politics
- 1 politician who is controversial and why

Make a diagram to show how the UK or another country's government works.

2. Deeper Questions/Tasks

Choose 2 kinds of government. Choose 4 ways to compare them (such as fairness or equality). Compare them and then decide which is best.

Create a simple logo for each of 5 different kinds of government. Each logo MUST communicate, without words, the kind of government it represents.

How are families governed?

3. Long-term Questions/Tasks

Design new kind of government that combines the best parts of existing systems.

Research times when governments have failed or changed very quickly. What causes this?

Think critically about how you will vote once you are old enough. (or will, if you already are)

No great advance has been made in science, politics, or religion without controversy.

Lyman Beecher



Books

A Call for Revolution
by The Dalai Lama

All About Politics
by Andrew Marr

The Politics Books
by DK

Starting Points

Watch

[youtube.com/watch?v=Qs-9B3FRXCA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs-9B3FRXCA)

Watch this video about the UK Parliament. Think up 3 questions you want to ask.

Act

<https://www.parliament.uk/education/teaching-resources-lesson-plans/election-toolkit/>

Persuade your teacher to hold an election.

Extend

What kind of 'government' does your school have? Where is the power in your school? Is there a better way to arrange how things work in your school?