



**Topic: Rights & Responsibilities**

**Year: 5**

**NC Strand: Living in the Wider World**

**What should I already know?**

- How I can contribute to the life of the classroom and school
- To help construct, and agree to follow, group, class and school rules and to understand how these rules help me
- That people and other living things have rights and that everyone has responsibilities to protect those rights

**What will I know by the end of the unit?**

- Changing rules and laws
- Anti-social behaviour
- Recognise ways in which the internet and social media can be used positively and negatively
- Assess reliability of online sources
- How information and data is shared and used online

**Vocabulary**

Rules	
Law	
Democracy	
Bill	
Police	
Suffragettes	
Society	
Moral issues	
Choices	
Online safety	
Anti-social behaviour	



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**Law**

A law is a rule made by Parliament. Laws tell us what we must and must not do. Laws help make sure our lives so smoothly.

Parliament

The UK Parliament is in London next to the River Thames. The famous clock tower, Big Ben, is next to the Houses of Parliament. Parliament is where Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the House of Lords (Baronesses and Lords) work to make new laws and discuss important topics. Once a year, the Queen visits Parliament for a grand ceremony called the State Opening of Parliament.

How do you become an MP or a Lord?

The United Kingdom is split up into 659 different areas called constituencies. Each constituency has an MP who looks after the interests of the people who live there. People who want to be an MP can put their names forward to be elected. People over the age of 18 then get to vote in an election for the person they like best or think will do the best job. The person who gets the most votes in each area becomes the MP for that constituency. Lords come from many different backgrounds. They are chosen because they are experts in subjects like education or science.

**Did you know?**

There are about 740 Members of the House of Lords, and about 150 are women. If the men are Lords, you might expect the women to be Ladies, but actually they are called Baronesses. Members of the House of Lords are often called peers.

Find out the name of your local MP

Hint: have a look at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

Who's in charge?

Most of the MPs and Lords are members of a political party, which is a group of people who have similar thoughts about how the country should be run. The leader of the political party that has the support of the most MPs after the election becomes the Prime Minister. Who is the current Prime Minister of England?



The Prime Minister and a team of about 100 MPs and Lords run the country, and come up with most of the ideas for new laws. This group of people is called the government. All the other MPs and Lords of Parliament have to make sure that the laws the government suggest are going to work.

Cabinet

No, it's not where the Prime Minister keeps his clothes! It's a group of about 22 MPs and Lords. Each one is in charge of particular things like education or the health service.

Do you know who is the current Education Secretary?



Law-making

Any idea for a new law has to be brought to Parliament. A law tells us what we must and must not do. Laws keep us safe and help our lives go smoothly. A lot of thought goes into making and changing laws because they affect everyone in the country. For example, sometimes laws are passed to make sure the ingredients in our food and drink are safe. At Parliament, ideas for new laws are called Bills. MPs and Lords always check Bills carefully.

There are 650 MPs at the moment, but there are only 427 seats in the main meeting room, which is called the House of Commons chamber. So when they all go in there to make important decisions, some of them have to stand up!

What do all the MPs and Lords do?

MPs and Lords have the important job of deciding what a new law should say. MPs discuss Bills in the House of Commons chamber. They explain why they agree or disagree with the idea. This is called debating. After they have discussed a Bill, the idea is sent to the House of Lords so that they can also debate it. The Lords look very carefully at the Bill. They have many discussions and suggest changes. When more than half the Lords voting are happy, the Bill goes back to the MPs. It can sometimes take a long time for the MPs and Lords to agree on a Bill. Once they do, there's one more person who has to look...the Queen.



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The Queen's job is to sign the Bill. This turns it into an Act of Parliament, known as a law.

### Lesson Overview

Lesson 1: to identify the need for rules in a given situation, to appreciate that rules are often made for our protection and to apply an understanding of the necessity for rules in other areas of life

Lesson 2: to understand how law are passed by Parliament

Lesson 3: to think about new laws which might seem desirable and whether they would work in practise

Lesson 4: to understand the nature and vocabulary of crime

Lesson 5: to understand the role of the police and some of the issues surrounding their operations

Lesson 6: to understand the importance of the Suffragettes and the means to which they felt it necessary to resort in order to convey their demands to the rest of society

Lesson 7: to discuss the use of the internet, the dangers it can present and ways of staying safe online