******Lesson 1**

**Lesson objectives:**

1. Students know that their school is taking part in Project Vote in 2021
2. Students can link elements of their own lives to politics

**Key questions:**

What is an election?

Have you heard the word election before?

Have you heard of the Senedd before?

**Some learners will**: Understand how the Senedd’s decisions impact on them

**Most learners will:** Know what sort of things the Senedd make decisions on   
**All learners will**: Know that an election is taking place in 2021

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| **Learning outcome** | **Activity** | **Notes** |
| * Introduction | **Circle time: The Senedd**  Show students a picture of the Senedd building. (You can use [our reference pictures](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Reference-pictures.pdf)).  Ask if any students have seen the building before.  Explain that the Senedd is in Cardiff. It’s where people, called Members of the Senedd, make decisions about Wales.  Show students a picture or video of a Member of the Senedd (MS). Ask if any students recognise this person.  Explain that they are a Member of the Senedd, someone who works in the Senedd building and makes decisions about Wales. | This can be done as an introduction to the lesson or as a circle time discussion prior to the lesson.  You could show a picture/video of your local MS or an MS who also acts as a Welsh Government Minister and might be recognisable from the news (e.g. Mark Drakeford, Vaughan Gething, Kirsty Williams). |
| * Students know that their school is taking part in the Children and Young People's Election in May 2021. | Explain that your school is taking part in a project about an election. An election is where people vote (give their opinion about) who should be in charge of something.  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. In 2021, young people aged 16 can vote for the first time.  Explain that you will be doing lessons and have a pretend election to help students learn about how it works. This will help them be ready to vote when they turn 16. Lots of other schools in Wales are taking part in the pretend election and all the votes will be counted together.  It can cover some fundamental points about what an election is and why they’re important. | You may have had elections recently which you may want to refer to e.g. school council or head boy/girl.  You may want to show pictures of the Senedd and/or an MS.  You may want to use our prompts to display at the front of the room. |
| * Students can link elements of their own lives to politics | Tell students you’re going to think about why people vote.  Ask students to [look at the worksheet](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Daily-timeline.pdf). 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).  Ask students whether they think these things are important.  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 people can recycle their rubbish.  So, people vote to make sure that the people in Senedd care about the same important things as them. | You could cut out the flashcards and ask students to sort them into things they use and things they don’t use.  You could show the Senedd and Members of the Senedd reference picture again here.  **Activity Option 2: Daily timeline**   * Ask students what they have done that day or what they will be doing for the rest of the day. Students could answer out loud, write their answers or draw a picture. * You could name or show pictures of prompts such as:   + A bus or car   + A school   + A park   + Food/drink * Ask students whether they think these things are important. |
| * Reinforce learning | Ask students to share one thing they circled on their sheet or included as part of their daily timeline. They can do this with a partner, in a group or to the whole class/group.  Finish the lesson by reminding students about the topics you have discussed.  Ask students some prompt questions:   * What is an election? * Who makes decisions about our area? * What sort of things do they make decisions about? |  |

**Lesson 2**

Lesson Objectives:

1. Students learn more about elections and the Senedd
2. Students understand more about voting and why it matters

**Key questions:**

What is an election?

Have you heard the word election before?

What is a political party?

**Some learners will**: Understand that different political parties hold different political opinions

**Most learners will**: Understand how people become Members of the Senedd   
**All learners will**: Be able to take part in a vote

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| **Learning outcome** | **Activity** | **Notes** |
| * Students learn more about elections and the Senedd | **Circle Time: Political Parties**  Ask students if they’ve heard of a political party before. You may wish to name or show pictures of examples of political parties.  Explain that a political party is a group of people. Can students name any other groups of people? Discuss why these people might be in a group together and what they have in common.  Explain that a political party is usually people who all think the same things are important. This is what they have in common. They work together to make a change.  Revisit some of the political parties you discussed at the beginning of the circle time. | This can be done as an introduction to the lesson or as a circle time discussion prior to the lesson.  They might name a class, a friendship group, a club, a band/pop group. |
| * Re-cap learning from last lesson | Recap on the last lesson by asking some key questions:  (end questions from last lesson).  Remind students that you are taking part in a project about elections.  Show students the picture of the Senedd. Ask the following:   * Who can remember the name of this building? * Where is this building? * What do people in the Senedd do? * How does somebody become a Member of the Senedd? | Prompt students with pictures used in the last lesson. |
| Students understand more about voting and why it matters | Explain that today you will be finding out more about an election.  Explain that some people decide they are interested in being a Member of the Senedd.  Ask for three volunteers to act as candidates.  Explain that each person usually has different things which are important to them. For example, one person might think that protecting the environment is the most important while another person might think that building new hospitals is the most important.    People are usually part of a ‘party’, which is a group of people who all think the same things are important.  Ask each volunteer to pick something from the bag (either a house, a hospital or a school). Tell them to pretend that this is the thing that is most important to them and their party. Put a picture or write each object on the board too.  Explain that everybody else votes for which person or party should join the Senedd. This is called an election. People usually vote based on whether they and the party think the same things are important. Ask the rest of the class or group to vote whether the house, hospital or school is most important.  Tally the class/group’s votes and write the number on the board. Ask the class which candidate had the most votes. Explain that in a real election, that candidate would now join the Senedd and make decisions about Wales.  Explain that you will practice this again at another time and that next time it will be more like how it’s done in the real election. | You may want to hold a practice vote for something first. For example, you could practice voting for a song to listen to as a class. You might prefer to vote on something which may be more relevant for your group e.g. deciding which lesson to do next, which book you will read as a class, deciding an activity to do as a reward.  Print out a picture, item or symbol of a house, a hospital and a school. Put each of the pictures in a bag or hat. You could use the Widgit symbols included in the appendix.  You could demonstrate that voting usually happens on paper in a real election by asking the group to write, draw or colour code a piece of paper and then place it into a box or hat. |
| Reinforce learning | Show the class a picture of the Senedd building. Explain that this is where Members of the Senedd work and make decisions about Wales.  Re-cap the lesson by asking the prompt questions. Students can discuss with a partner or group.   * What have you learnt today? * What is an election? * What is a political party? |  |

**Appendix**

