**Lesson 3: Getting ready to vote**

This lesson is part of the Project Vote 2022 scheme of work, [click here to see previous lessons](https://www.projectvote.wales/resources/).

**Before you start this session:**

**Information**

* Candidate names and information for the local council elections will be released on 11th April, which means you will need to run this lesson AFTER the Easter holidays and in time for our parallel vote, taking place between 3-5 May.

'Every local authority is split into lots of wards. In a local election we all vote for candidates to represent our ward. So in your class, you might have young people from lots of different wards. Focusing on one ward together, (e.g the ward that the school is in), will make it easier to do as a class. You can find your ward by typing the postcode in to the website www.whocanivotefor.co.uk

* We recommend running this session as close to the vote being open as possible.

**Resources that need completing:**

We have provided you with a [template](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Candidate-template.pdf), and [symbols](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Supporting-Symbols.pdf) that represent different things the council has control over. If you need different symbols you can contact our office. You should use the templates to create information about the candidates standing in your ward for pupils to use in the lesson. Follow the steps below to complete this:

* Go to the website [www.whocanivotefor.co.uk](http://www.whocanivotefor.co.uk) and use your school postcode to find out which candidates are standing.
* To fill out the template you could use:
	+ Send a direct email to the candidates [using our template email](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Email-template-for-teachers-2.docx)
	+ Any personal statements that might be on the website
	+ [Our web page with useful links](https://www.projectvote.wales/useful-info/), including links to local party websites
	+ Links to candidates' social media posts
	+ Leaflets that you or pupils receive through the post
* We’ve included [a template email](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Email-template-for-teachers-2.docx) for you to send to candidates for more information. You might want to highlight that you are supporting children with Additional Learning Needs and would appreciate it if the information they send you could be as clear as possible.
* Highlight 3 topics that are important to the candidate and attach a picture if possible. These will then be ready to use in the lesson.

As well as the whocanivotefor website, you can also check our website [for useful links to help you.](https://www.projectvote.wales/useful-info/)

**This lesson might be a challenge to deliver depending on the information available from candidates, so we would encourage you to get in touch if you need any help.**

Timings have been left off this lesson as you may want to spread the activities over a number of lessons.

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| **Activity**  | **Adaptations**  | **Extension/ Scaffold**  |
| **Re-cap**Re-cap on the previous lessons by sharing resources and asking questions. *Show the council logo and ask:* *“Who can remember what this is?”**Show the picture and ask:* *“What does a council control?”***Explain:** Last lesson we talked about voting and I explained that we will learn more about the people we can vote for in the council election. We are going to learn more about the people today and then we will take part in the vote. The vote is called an election. The election in our school isn’t real. It’s a chance for you to have a think about who you might like to vote for in the future and learn how to vote.  | You might want to use the symbols from lesson one to support pupils thinking/ answer sharing.  |  |
| **Our priorities**We are going to think about the things that we think are important. Provide pupils with the “[important to me”](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Important-to-me.pdf) handout. Ask pupils to look [at the symbols](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Supporting-Symbols.pdf). Remind them that these are things that councils control. Ask pupils to choose three things that they think are important in their community and add the symbol to their handout. Ask pupils to share their top three with the class. Support feedback by recognising popular choices.  | You might want to do this handout as a small group rather than as individuals. For PMLD learners you may want to provide the options one at a time over a number of sessions.  | Pupils could turn their top three choices into a poster that reflects the candidate templates you’ve created. Pupils could think about what their top three choices would be for school and present them to the head teacher.  |
| **Introducing the candidates** Explain to pupils that the people they are going to vote for are called Candidates. Candidates have different things that they think are important and that they would like to make better in our community too. [Share the candidate profiles](https://www.projectvote.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Candidate-template.pdf) (pre-prepared by you) with the class. Take time to introduce each one, tell the group their name, the party they represent and their three top priorities. **Note: some candidates will be independent candidates, meaning they won’t be part of a party.** Ask pupils to look at their *“important to me”* handout. Ask them to see if the things they think are important match the things that the Candidates think are important. Discuss the pupils' findings. Recognise pupils who had priorities that matched the candidates, and those that didn’t. Explain that this is how people decide who to vote for. “If you have lots of ideas that match the candidate then that is someone you might want to vote for.”(If pupils didn’t have any matches, you will need to help them look at the profiles and make a decision about which one they think is “best”.)   | Depending on the number of candidates you may want to introduce them in different sessions and leave their profiles around the classroom. You could provide pupils with the three symbols so they can physically place them on the candidates’ symbols if they match. This may help if they have more than one candidate that matches their three choices.  | Pupils could make a poster about their preferred candidate.  |
| **The Vote** **Please note:** The large number of wards across Wales mean it's not practical for us to make an e-ballot for every ward, like you'd have in real life. So our e-ballot covers the whole local authority. And because there are so many individual candidates across the whole local authority, we have instead listed the names of parties. So Pupils will need to vote for the party, rather than the candidate name. If a pupil wants to vote for an independent candidate (i.e. one who isn't a part of a party), they will need to choose 'Independent Candidate' from the list.**Links to the e-ballot will be sent out on 29 April, and will work between 3-5 May.**If you are delivering this part of the session at a later date, then you may want to re-cap the candidates for pupils. Explain to pupils that you will be voting for ONE candidate. Support them to match the party their candidate represents with the party on the e-ballot paper. Once the vote is complete, explain that you will find out the results on 7 May, the day after the real election. | You may want to consider the following option for the vote, as it may suit the needs of your pupils better: * Adapt of paper ballot to reflect the candidates standing in your area. Talk pupils through a paper ballot vote and then update their vote onto the website.
* You may want to include the candidate pictures on the paper ballot to support pupils with their choice.
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