



Department
for Education

Citizenship

Programmes of study for Key Stages 3-4

February 2013

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Purpose of study

A high-quality citizenship education helps to provide pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. In particular, citizenship education should foster pupils' keen awareness of how the United Kingdom is governed and how its laws are made and upheld. It should also prepare pupils to take their place in society as responsible citizens by providing them with the skills and knowledge to manage their money well and make sound financial decisions.

Aims

The National Curriculum for citizenship aims to ensure that all pupils:

- acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of how the United Kingdom is governed, its political system and how citizens participate actively in its democratic systems of government
- develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the role of law in our society and how laws are shaped and enforced
- develop an interest in, and commitment to, volunteering that they will take with them into adulthood
- are equipped with the financial skills to enable them to manage their money on a day-to-day basis as well as to plan for future financial needs.

Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Subject content

Key Stage 3

Citizenship education should develop pupils' understanding of how the United Kingdom is governed and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens.

Pupils should be taught about:

- how the political system of the United Kingdom has developed as a democracy, including the role of the monarchy, the development of our constitution and Parliament, and how democracy is different from other forms of government
- the operation of Parliament, including voting and elections, and the role of political parties
- the precious liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom
- the nature of rules and laws, and the difference between criminal and civil law
- the justice system, including the role of the police, and how courts and tribunals work
- the functions and uses of money, the importance of personal budgeting, money management and a range of financial products and services.

Key Stage 4

Teaching should build on the Key Stage 3 programme of study to deepen pupils' understanding of how the United Kingdom is governed, as well as other forms and systems of government.

Pupils should be taught about:

- parliamentary democracy, including the role of Parliament in holding governments to account, and the different roles of the executive, legislature and judiciary
- the different electoral systems used in and beyond the United Kingdom and actions citizens can take in democratic and electoral processes to influence decisions locally, nationally and beyond
- other systems and forms of government, both democratic and non-democratic, beyond the United Kingdom
- local, regional and international governance and the United Kingdom's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth and the wider world
- diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding

- the different ways in which a citizen can contribute to the improvement of their community, to include the opportunity to participate actively in community volunteering
- wages, taxes, credit, debt, financial risk and a range of more sophisticated financial products and services.



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