



St John Lloyd RC Primary School Professional Learning and Inquiry Case Study: Exploring Politics and democracy with Primary Learners.

This Professional learning and inquiry case study explores how staff and pupils at St John Lloyd RC Primary School currently engage with **The Politics Project** and the **Democracy Ambassadors programme** to deepen their understanding of democratic principles and political structures.

How can visits and interactive learning with Politicians from the Cardiff Council, Welsh Government and the UK Parliament help primary pupils meaningfully understand democracy and their role in it?

Context and Rationale

St John Lloyd RC Primary School, located in Trowbridge Cardiff, has a diverse and vibrant school community. As part of the school's commitment to the new Curriculum for Wales, the school identified a need to deepen pupils' understanding of democracy and political systems. The main focus was to foster political literacy and active participation from an early age whilst emphasising **ethically, informed citizenship**.

Description of nature of strategy or activity

1) Local Government Level

In the first phase, the School Council explored the role of local government by investigating decisions made by Cardiff Council.

Using their research skills, year 5 and 6 pupils gathered information about politicians and developed their understanding of asking and writing specific questions and how to deliver them in a debate. Pupils paid a visit to County hall to participated in a 'day in the life of a councillor'. They carried out mock election, visited the chambers and sat in the seats in place of the council members

After their 'Q&A sessions' with local councillors, the school Council used their new skills set and knowledge to write to the leader of Cardiff Council regarding the ongoing issue of our flooded playing fields.



At Welsh Government Level

In the second phase, the School Council visited the Welsh Government 'Senedd' in Cardiff Bay. At this phase pupils studied the role of members of the Welsh Government in setting rules for Wales which effect all our lives. Pupils researched and listened to the history of Welsh devolution and the developed of the eco sustainable building. This experience gave the pupils a sense of how far Wales has come in shaping its own future. The School Council were given the opportunity to take part in a debate in the chamber based on the topic environment and inclusion. As a result, pupils began to think more deeply about ecological topics whilst ensuring that young voices are being heard in the conversation



At UK Parliament Level

In the final phase, year 6 pupils had the opportunity to visit the UK Parliament in Westminster, where they took part in a variety of workshops. Pupils toured both the House of Commons and the House of Lords exploring the heart of British democracy. At this stage, pupils gained a valuable insight into how laws are made. In these workshops, pupils learned about the journey of a Bill through Parliament and even took on the role of MPs themselves—drafting their own Bills and debating whether to pass them or not!





Pupil's Learning

Pupils literacy and digital competency were developed through research, speech writing, role-play, and digital presentations. Listening and communication skills were developed through the school council holding 'Surgeries' for the concerns of their peers whilst putting forward suggestions on how the school could be improved.

Impact and Outcomes

- Most pupils demonstrate a clearer understanding of political structures and its impact on people's everyday lives.
- Engagement in pupil voice groups increased due being part of a real-life experience. For example, working with councillors and members of parliament
- Increase in pupils oracy, questioning and critical thinking skills.
- Pupil voice groups are more active and accountable. For example, playground leaders change playground equipment and school council arrange an annual cultural day.

Summary

Overall, through their engagement with **The Politics Project** and **The Democracy Ambassadors programme**, nearly all pupils have developed a deeper understanding of the democratic principles and political systems. They have gained the confidence to voice their opinions, take initiative, and actively participate in shaping their school and wider community. These experiences have enhanced pupils' communication, critical thinking, and leadership skills—empowering them to become informed, engaged citizens from an early age.

Future

The school remains committed to engaging with **The Politics Project** and **The Democracy Ambassadors programme**, ensuring that pupils deepen their understanding of the decisions that impact their lives and that they feel empowered to actively participate in shaping these decisions.