



Discussion – What do elected representatives have in common?

Outline

In the presentation and the interactive game Who Does What?, the pupils will have discovered that:

- there are three levels of government in Northern Ireland;
- there are three types of representatives: Local Councillors, MLAs and MPs; and
- each of the representatives looks after a different area.

Think, pair, share

Ask the pupils to consider the two questions below then make a list of answers with a partner. When pairs have made their list, ask them to share their thinking with the class.

1. What do MPs, MLAs and Local Councillors have in common?

Responses may include:

- must be elected to their job;
- represent the people in their area;
- make decisions;
- must listen to people;
- attend meetings;
- sit on committees;
- help the public with their problems;
- work together with others;
- compromise on important issues; or
- decide how money is spent.





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2. What makes a good representative? What kind of qualities would you expect to see?

Responses may include:

- has good ideas;
- good public speaker;
- good listener;
- can compromise, when necessary;
- calm;
- works hard;
- quick thinker;
- works well with others;
- trustworthy;
- reliable;
- good communicator;
- helpful;
- committed; or
- enthusiastic.

You could also:

Talk about school council representatives and ask the pupils if there are any qualities that would be common to all.

Ask the pupils if they would consider running for election either in school or elsewhere in the future. As a class, discuss why or why not.

Ask the pupils:

What are the positives and negatives of being an elected representative?

Responses may include:

Positives	Negatives
Good salary	Long hours
Helping other people	Very public job
You can make laws and decisions	Open to criticism