

Unit 3: What is Lawfulness?



Lesson 1: The concept of lawfulness

This lesson requires pupils to explore what it means to be lawful and what benefits there are to living in a lawful society.

Planning	
Prior Learning	<p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • democracy and the rule of law; • human rights and children’s rights; and • inclusion and equality.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the meaning of lawfulness; • explain five key features of a lawful society; • explain the benefits of living in a lawful community or society; and • think about and ask appropriate questions of other.
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus	<p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p>Being Creative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore questions to ask • Learn from and value other people’s ideas/opinions <p>Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justify opinions.
Attitudes and Dispositions	<p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community spirit • Personal Responsibility.
Resources	<p>Animation: <i>What Is Lawfulness?</i></p> <p>Unit 3: Lesson 1 Resource A – Four corners debate statements Unit 3: Lesson 1 Resource B – Four corners opinions</p> <p>Flip chart paper Markers</p>

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Suggested teaching and learning strategies

Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. **What does being an active citizen mean?**
2. **What does the rule of law have to do with active citizenship?**
3. **How would you explain lawfulness?**
4. **What does social responsibility have to do with living in a lawful community or society?**

Pupils may have different views about what they consider social responsibility to be; you could encourage them to think about different groups in society, for example the social responsibility of a teenager, adult, police officer or youth worker.

You may now wish to show the animation *What Is Lawfulness?*

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. *An active citizen is someone who contributes to society, gets actively involved in helping others and gives up their own time.*
2. *Active citizens respect the rule of law and act within the law. (Welcome other ideas on the link between the two.)*
3. *People following the rules of society or not taking part in illegal activities*
4. *Social responsibility refers to people's responsibility to play an active role in improving their communities by taking positive action. This could include showing support for the justice system and the police or court punishments, as opposed to turning to paramilitaries for support.*

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Activities

Activity 1: Four corners debate

- Use **Resource A** to make four cards – Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree – and place one in each corner of the classroom.
- Read out the statements in **Resource B** one at a time. Ask the pupils to show if they agree or disagree with each one by standing beside one of the cards.
- Use effective questioning techniques to stimulate discussion, for example:
 - What impact do you think criminality might have on the mental health of the people living in a community?
 - Crime might pay, but at what cost to the person doing it, their family, and the victims?
 - How do the police do a good job? What could they do better?
- Encourage the pupils to justify their thinking, ideas and opinions.

Activity 2: A lawful society

- Ask the pupils to form groups of four or five, and give a piece of flip chart paper to each group.
- Ask each group to agree and write down five features of a lawful community or society.

Possible answers and discussion points:

- All citizens feel safe.
- Everyone is treated equally and fairly.
- No-one is above the law.
- Citizens and institutions respect and act within the law.
- Citizens expect others to uphold the law.
- Citizens have confidence and trust in the justice system.
- Citizens are willing to report criminal activity.
- The PSNI will take action against criminal activity.
- The justice system supports citizens who are threatened or intimidated.

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- Next, ask individual pupils to write down two questions to ask others. You could begin by providing some examples of effective questions to facilitate discussion, for example:
 - Why did you choose this as one of your top five reasons for what makes a lawful society?
 - Why do you think citizens having trust in the police would help create a lawful society?
- Give each group an opportunity to share their ideas and ask questions.
- Remind your pupils that there is no right or wrong answer and everyone is entitled to their own opinions.

Debrief

Discuss the following:

- 1. What are the benefits of living in a lawful community or society?**
- 2. What can the justice system (including the PSNI) do to make Northern Ireland society more lawful?**
- 3. How lawful is your community?**
- 4. What can young people do to help make Northern Ireland society more lawful?**

The purpose of Question 3 is to identify how pupils feel about their own communities. The last question encourages young people to think about how they can participate in bringing about change and be active citizens.

Possible answers and discussion points:

- 1. We feel safer; it's better for the economy; it means a peaceful society. (Alternatively, if pupils respond with answers such as 'There are no benefits', you could reshape the question and ask 'What would it be like if we didn't live in a lawful society?')*
- 2. More patrols on the street; faster responses to crime calls; attempt to strengthen relationships in communities*
- 3. (Pupils' own answers)*
- 4. Become a youth work leader in the community; be a positive role model to others in society; become involved in community groups and have a say*

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Active Citizenship



Unit 3: Lesson 1 Resource A Four corners opinions



Agree

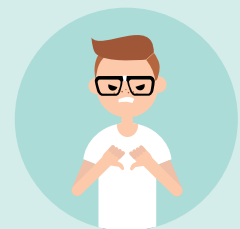


**Strongly
Agree**



Disagree

**Strongly
Disagree**



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Unit 3: Lesson 1 Resource B Four corners debate statements

1. In lawful communities all citizens would feel safe.
2. Citizens do not feel safe in some communities.
3. Criminal activity affects the wellbeing and mental health of citizens.
4. Citizens are afraid to report criminal activities to the PSNI.
5. Crime pays.
6. Those involved in criminal activity seem to get away with it.
7. The PSNI do a good job tackling criminal activity.
8. There is no justification for individuals or groups to threaten or intimidate others in communities.
9. 'Punishment beatings/shootings' are an abuse of human rights.
10. There is nothing citizens can do to create more lawful communities.

