

**Teaching Democracy** This summary helps schools to understand the central role of the subject of Citizenship in teaching knowledge and understanding of Democracy.

**Democracy in the Citizenship National Curriculum**

Pupils should be taught

**Primary:** what democracy is & about the basic institutions that support it locally and nationally *(DFE National Framework for Citizenship 2015)*

**Secondary:** the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch; the operation of Parliament, voting and elections, the role of political parties; how citizens participate actively. *(DFE NC Citizenship, 2014)*

Democracy must be promoted as a **British Value**. *(DFE, 2014)*

**Democracy** can be understood as three inter-related stories: firstly, democracy describes a principle of government; secondly it describes a system of government institutions and relationships; and thirdly it relates to a form of citizen behaviour. *(Crick, 2002 Democracy a very short introduction: OUP)*



Democracy involves teaching a number of interrelated ideas. In **Citizenship** pupils build their knowledge of **Key characteristics** of a democratic political system:

- Regular elections** to elect representatives to govern & remove people from power.
- Freedom to stand as a candidate in elections**, to ensure there is no permanent political class.
- Free and secret ballot**, to ensure people feel free to cast their vote as they wish, minimising the chances of coercion or bribery.
- Political parties** to help organise representatives around core policy ideas & a mechanism by which to form governments; and makes it easier for citizens to identify candidates to support.
- Free media** to ensure information & range of opinions are widely spread; citizens are free to develop own informed views; & politicians held to account for their actions, which are reported analysed.
- Freedom of assembly** for citizens and the **freedom to organise**.
- Minority rights** to ensure principle of liberty is maintained for all & avoid 'tyranny of the majority'.
- Equal citizenship rights for women**, in 'democratic' institutions & processes.



For information, CPD, support and guidance: [www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk](http://www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk)

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