



ACT School & College Membership

Taster Pack

Introduction: who are we?

We are ACT – the Association for Citizenship Teaching

- An **education charity** founded on the belief that a high-quality Citizenship education can transform young people's lives
- The **subject community** for Citizenship teachers and educators
- A **membership organisation**, providing advice, training and resources
- **Advocates** for Citizenship, supporting research and offering strategic policy advice

What do we do?

- We bring together **supportive networks** of Citizenship teachers and educators – subject specialist and non-specialist – to share expertise and advice
- We offer inspirational **training and CPD**
- We provide high-quality **teaching resources**
- We **quality assure** teaching
- We offer **strategic policy advice** on Citizenship education, lobbying and influencing on behalf of the subject



“Our vision is for all young people to be active, informed citizens, equipped through effective Citizenship education with the knowledge, skills and experience to participate in and shape a strong and vibrant democracy based on equality, fairness and justice.”

*Liz Moorse
ACT Chief Executive*

ACT

ACT membership – what’s it all about?

High-quality Citizenship education develops knowledge, skills and understanding that pupils need to play a full part in society as active and responsible citizens.

In schools where Citizenship is embedded, pupils learn about democracy, politics, Parliament and voting, as well as human rights, justice, media literacy, the law and the economy. They also learn the skills of active citizenship through practical opportunities to address issues of concern to them. Teaching is brought to life using real issues, case studies, people and events, in local to global contexts.



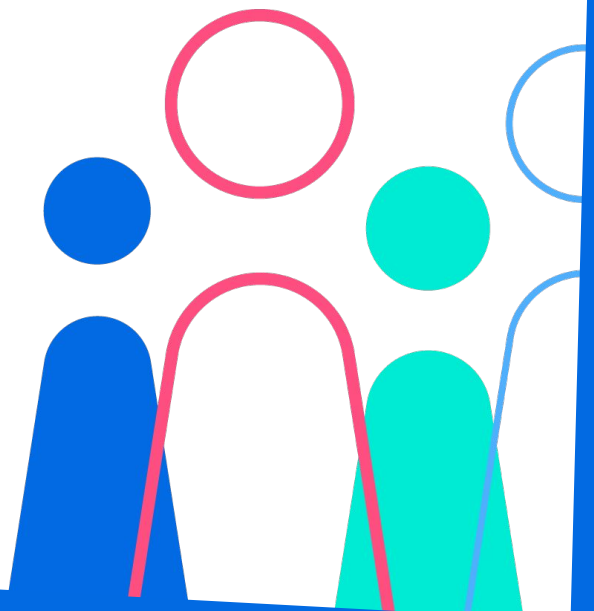
At ACT, we understand the challenge that this poses to schools – in terms of finding curriculum time, resourcing lessons, equipping non-specialist teachers to deliver the subject, and navigating sensitive conversations around controversial topics.

We are on hand to help through our supportive community, specialist training, expert advice, and high-quality resources. Everything we do is guided by experienced subject teachers who truly understand what is needed to teach Citizenship effectively, address the key requirements of the national curriculum, and succeed at GCSE.

This guide has been designed to give you a taste of the resources and tools available through an ACT School & College Membership and an insight into the value it could bring to your school, teaching staff and pupils.

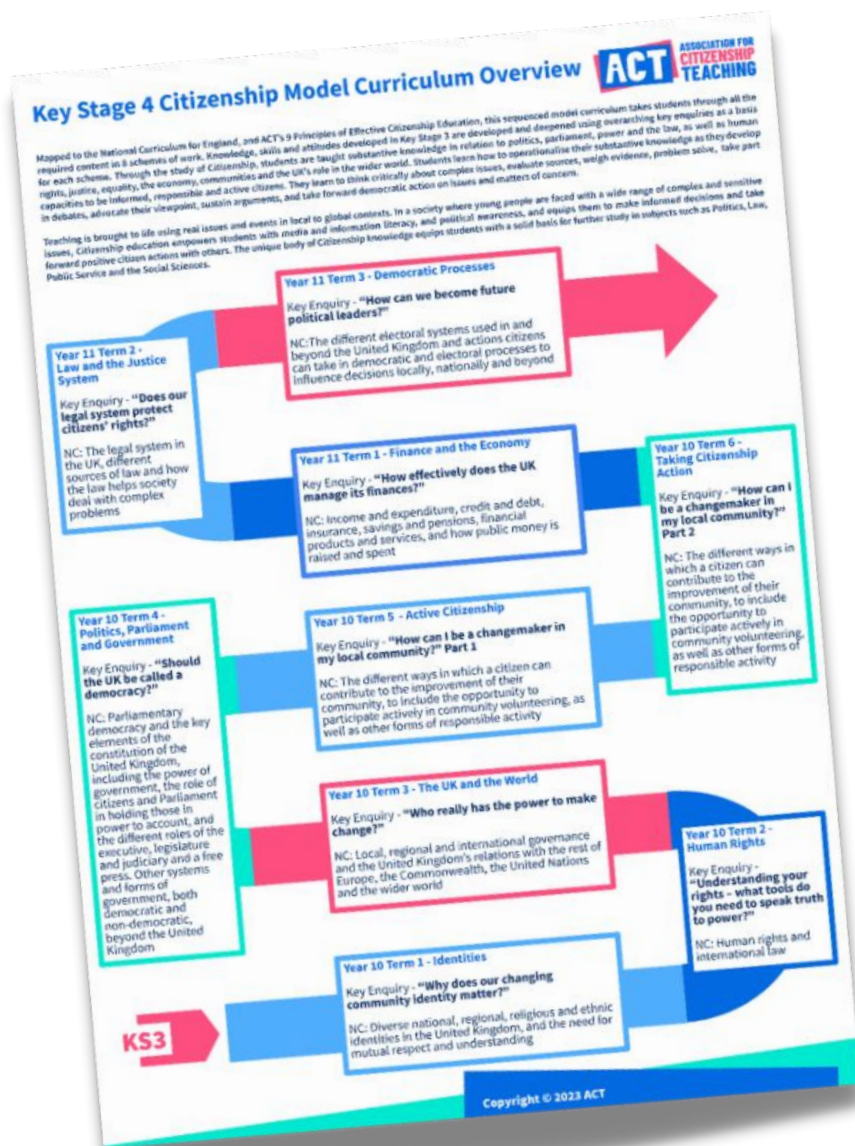
“It is so inspiring to be part of a community making such a difference in the lives of our pupils – you never feel alone.”

*Bryden Joy
Lead Practitioner for Citizenship and PSHE,
Ormiston Academies Trust*



Core curriculum resources

Want to refresh your Citizenship curriculum, but unable to find the time? School and college members automatically receive free access to our new model core curriculum resources. All schemes of work are available with comprehensive lesson plans, slides and student resources. They are ready to use and adapt to support you in providing rigorous, progressive and engaging teaching.



Curriculum maps

Our model curriculum for Key Stage 4 is mapped to the Citizenship national curriculum for England and ACT's nine principles of effective Citizenship education.

The model curriculum is sequenced to take your students through all the required content. Knowledge, understanding and skills taught at previous key stages are developed and deepened, while critical thinking and active learning are promoted through the use of overarching key enquiries.



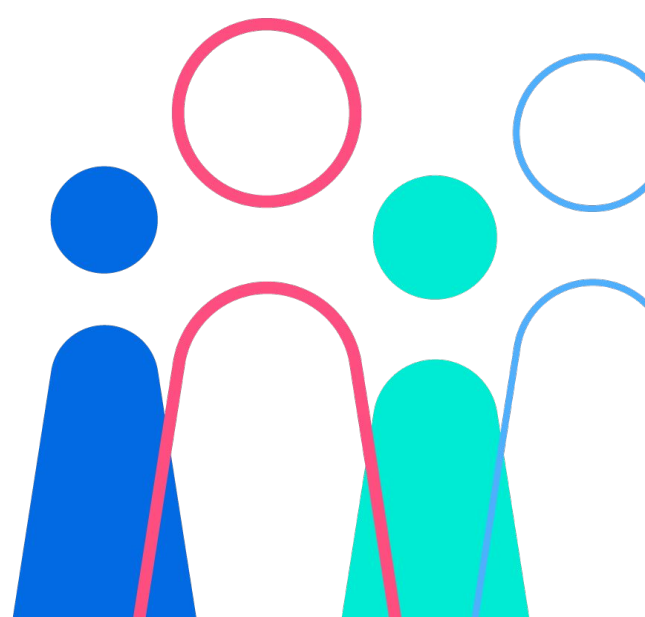
Schemes of work



The ACT model core curriculum is made up a number of schemes of work, which consist of a series of lessons for teaching Citizenship in line with the requirements of the national curriculum. The lessons can be used and adapted to fit with your school's provision.

Each scheme of work has an enquiry question as the focus, which is then broken down into smaller questions that provide the learning focus for each lesson.

LESSONS	1 - Should first-past-the-post be scrapped?	2 - How can I get involved in politics?	3 - How do different countries govern themselves?	4 - What is a political party and what do they stand for?	5 - Media Literacy - what happens to the media during elections?	6 - Working in politics - What can you do?
Overview	This lesson is about the UK voting systems for general elections (FPTP). Students will explore three other voting systems and decide whether or not they think FPTP is the best voting system, culminating in a referendum style vote.	Students investigate different ways they can get involved in politics. The lesson involves a topical debate of voting at 16 and 17. Students will debate and vote on this issue in the classroom.	Students will explore how different countries govern themselves. This will allow students to compare forms of government using the knowledge they have developed. Students will look at the governments of the USA, Israel, India and Norway in detail, and explore the differences between them.	Students will have the opportunity to begin to question where they may be involved in, and look at the key parties. The lesson will culminate in party manifestos.	Students will explore what happens to the media during elections. Students learn that government parties and 'heavy hitters' media literacy. Students will explore how newspapers and television the electorate by looking at how the vote is reported.	The purpose of this lesson is to explore a range of the career options in politics available to pupils. Students will find out about different career paths such as becoming a lobbyist or a think tank, working in international organisations. They will also explore how we can become the future political leaders. There is an opportunity to be involved in a role.
Learning Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What voting systems can be used in elections? Should first past the post be scrapped? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the different ways I can become involved in politics? Should the voting age be reduced to 16 in the UK? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What different forms of government are there in the world? Which type of government is the most effective or successful? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the political spectrum and where are the key parties in the UK? What is a manifesto? What are the key parties' focuses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the media operate during election times? How important is the media's role in informing the electorate? Should newspapers be fair and balanced? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What careers are available in politics and related workplaces? How are we responsible for making change happen?
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and report on different voting systems Debate Vote Referendum style vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role play Debate Referendum style vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and report on different forms of government Debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and report on different political parties Debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and report on different media organisations Debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and report on different career options Debate
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint Voting systems worksheet Teacher resource Referendum ballot papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint Referendum ballot papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint Match the correct research worksheet Forms of government worksheet Teacher resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint MPQ Political spectrum worksheet Make your own political party worksheet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint MPQ Media literacy worksheet Teacher resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint MPQ Referendum ballot papers
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Differentiated worksheet Modelling Sentence starters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Modelling Sentence starters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Modelling Sentence starters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Modelling Sentence starters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Modelling Sentence starters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q&A Modelling Sentence starters
Task/Enquiry Task	Research arguments for and against the voting age, in the UK, being reduced to 16. Students' arguments should be balanced, with a minimum of five arguments for each side.	Watch a short video on Citizenship Connections , look up unfamiliar words and make notes.	Research one political party. Pupils make notes on: who the party's leader is, how many seats the party has, a brief history of what the party stands for and what the party's logo is.	Students choose a political party, and look at what methods they used to campaign during the last general election (2019).	Students research a career in politics: job description, qualifications and experience needed, working hours and salary.	Students are shown homepages of UK Youth Parliament, Youth Politics UK and Young Politics Heard and encouraged to look at these websites.



Lesson packs

To deliver outstanding Citizenship, you'll need well-planned, progressive, sequenced teaching that:

- meets the Citizenship programme of study requirements
- stretches and challenges pupils appropriately through meaningful teaching and learning
- provides accurate, informed knowledge



Our lesson packs provide you with a blueprint for engaging and progressive lessons that deliver the core requirements of the national curriculum for Citizenship. Each lesson pack includes a lesson plan, slides and worksheets.

Lesson plans

Our **lesson plans** provide you with:

- a lesson overview
- key skills and concepts
- essential teaching guidance
- learning objectives
- a resource list
- tasks
- assessment opportunities
- reflection



CPD programme

It can often be challenging to find high-quality, Citizenship-specific development opportunities. At ACT, we have developed an extensive, subject-specific professional development programme for teachers, covering a wide range of topics.

Our CPD programme is delivered by a mix of in-house and guest experts. Our presenters will develop your subject knowledge, offer the latest research and thinking, and give practical examples of application in your school context – blending pedagogical guidance, practical advice and the latest research in Citizenship education. Attendees also benefit from session recordings and support materials, and receive certificates of attendance that help to capture their professional development commitment.

We are also planning to develop new digital courses during the next academic year.

School and college members will receive free access to all CPD during 2023/24

ACT ASSOCIATION FOR CITIZENSHIP TEACHING

Your 2023/24 CPD wishes have been granted!

We are excited to share our newly-designed, comprehensive CPD programme for all teachers of Citizenship education.

Introducing the new strands

Strand 1: Introduction to Citizenship
This strand is designed for anybody who is new to the subject, from ITE trainees to experienced teachers who are allowing participants to develop their understanding of the core substantive knowledge of the subject, key concepts and best practice in pedagogy.

Strand 2: GCSE Network
Building on our current strong network of GCSE teachers, we have developed a bespoke strand for members who teach GCSE Citizenship Studies. The focus of sessions will include improving outcomes for the Citizenship Investigation (active citizenship), examination technique, and opportunities for teachers to support each other with moderation of assessments.

It can often be challenging to find high-quality Citizenship specific development opportunities, so we have created a valuable subject.

Our new CPD strands are designed to meet the needs of teachers at different career stages, and incorporate opportunities to apply the new learning and techniques covered during the sessions. Attendees will also benefit from session recordings, support materials and receive certificates of attendance that help to capture their professional development commitment.

Strand 3: Leading Citizenship
Leading Citizenship can be complex and often involves non-specialist teachers taking on the role. This strand will look successfully across the school. It also helps those who lead Citizenship across multiple schools and need to develop their understanding of research-informed practice and how this influences the curriculum.

Strand 4: Politics, Elections and Society
Building upon the CPD offering in the previous year and feedback from our members, we have introduced a new strand entitled 'Politics, Elections and Society' which provides broader subject knowledge enhancement and incorporates a range of elements from previous CPD strands.

In addition to these CPD opportunities we will continue to run national events and conferences bringing together Citizenship teachers and academics from across the country. Our termly virtual staffrooms will continue to provide an opportunity for our community to meet in a relaxed environment to discuss current issues and share practical ideas. We look forward to working with you and the growing Citizenship subject community over the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Zoe Baker
ACT Head of Education and Professional Development

ACT

CPD strands

Our four CPD strands have been designed to ensure we provide professional development that meets the needs of teachers at different stages of their career.

Strand 1: Introduction to Citizenship

This strand is designed for anybody who is new to the subject, from ITE trainees to experienced teachers who are teaching Citizenship for the first time. These events will allow participants to develop their understanding of the core substantive knowledge of the subject, key concepts and best practice in pedagogy.

Strand 2: GCSE Network

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Strand 3: Leading Citizenship

Leading Citizenship can be complex and often involves non specialist teachers taking on the role. This strand will look at the logistical role of subject leaders to embed Citizenship successfully across the school. It also helps those who lead Citizenship across multiple schools and need to develop their understanding of research-informed practice and how this influences the curriculum.

Strand 4: Leading Citizenship

Building upon the CPD offering in the previous year and feedback from our members, we have introduced a new strand entitled 'Politics, Elections and Society' which provides broader subject knowledge enhancement and incorporates a range of elements from previous CPD strands.

Nine reasons to join ACT...

- 1. Get friendly, expert one-to-one support** – from our advisory teachers and ACT Ambassador teachers.
- 2. Enjoy free CPD sessions** – advice and guidance on all aspects of Citizenship teaching, curriculum, assessment and qualifications.
- 3. Access free resources** – including guidance and inspiration to support the delivery of Citizenship from primary to post-16.
- 4. Use our model curriculum** – our Key Stage 4 schemes of work provide best practice curriculum planning and lesson delivery. Our Key Stage 3 model curriculum is set to follow!
- 5. Receive ACT e-news** – our regular email updates (around twice a month) keep you up to date with the latest developments in Citizenship education.
- 6. Get a free copy of ACT's journal** – 'Teaching Citizenship' includes in-depth features, news, the latest policy information, case studies, lesson plans and other resources for all involved in Citizenship education.
- 7. Make the most of our website** – for easy access to resources, policy and guidance information, and to keep abreast with all things Citizenship.
- 8. Attend discounted courses and conferences** – a great way to network! Find details on the events page of the ACT website.
- 9. Join in with national projects** – ACT has partnered with NGOs, organisations and universities to run national projects around media literacy, resilience, suffrage, and the deliberative classroom. As a member, you will have access to lesson plans, resources and pilot schemes.



Save time and equip your team with a quality-assured solution now!

ACT



ACT is the subject association for all those engaged in leading, teaching and supporting high-quality Citizenship education in schools and colleges.

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