

Democracy

POLLING
STATION

1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-british-values-democracy-pankhurst-international-womens-day/zmxfrd>

Play your chosen music and be ready to display the image of a ballot paper:

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/ballot_paper.jpg

2. Your introduction to the video

Ask *Does anyone know what the word democracy means?* Gather the pupils' responses and establish that it means 'rule by the people'. Display the image of a ballot paper and describe the process of voting. *On election day, adults over the age of 18 can cast their vote. They go to a polling station near their homes. Often, a school becomes a polling station for the day and the children get a day off. The voters are given a ballot paper like this one. They put a cross on their ballot paper next to the name of the person they want to vote for. Then they can fold the paper over - so no-one can see how they voted - and they put it into a ballot box. When the polling station shuts at the end of the day, all the papers are emptied out of the ballot box and counted. The person with the most crosses next to their name is elected to help make our laws and decide how our country is run.* You could go on to ask: *Why do you think we do this?* Gather the children's responses, then ask: *Would it be fair if only some people were allowed to vote?*

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 40". The final words are: '...a better place for everybody.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Invite the pupils to share their thoughts about voting and democracy. Prompt them to develop their ideas with further questions such as:

What if someone you don't like gets elected - do you have to accept it?

What if people don't want to vote - should we make them?

How old do you think someone should be before they get to vote - is 18 the right age?

If we want the right to vote, do we also have a responsibility to listen to the views of other people who don't think the same way as us?

Invite the assembly to take a vote on each of these questions with a show of hands. Emphasise that this is a fair way to make decisions. You could end by pointing out: *Voting is a way to take important decisions fairly. Democracy allows us to settle arguments without fighting or wars.*

Play video



6. Time to sing

An opportunity for you to sing your chosen song.

7. Opportunity to reflect

Ask the pupils to sit quietly and think about fairness. You could prompt them with:

We can only be truly fair if we listen to other people's opinions, thoughts and feelings. Voting only works if everyone has a voice. Make time to listen to other people today and think about what they want too.

8. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', etc) and:

'We thank you for the rights and freedoms that come with voting. Help us to remember we have a responsibility too to listen to the views of other people and to treat them fairly. Amen.'