Words you will learn:



campaign
A planned effort to achieve a goal.



citizen
Someone who belongs to a community or country.



government
The group of people responsible for making local or national decisions.



Member of Parliament (MP)
A person elected to represent people in a local area in Parliament.



national
Related to the whole country.

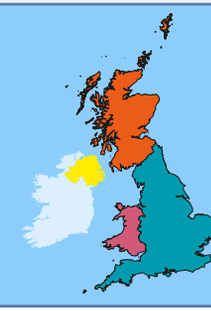


tax
The money paid to the government for services.

Words you may know:

budget	A set amount of money or a plan for how money will be used.
councillor	A person chosen to represent people and help make decisions in a local area.

national





The UK is a democracy. Citizens vote for people to represent them in local and national government.

How does the UK government work?

1. People vote in a general election, usually every five years.
2. MPs are elected to represent the people in local areas in Parliament.
3. The political party with the most MPs usually forms the UK Government.
4. The leader of that party usually becomes the Prime Minister.
5. The Prime Minister chooses ministers to help run different areas of government.

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local council

Make decisions that help look after a local area:

- collect rubbish
- look after public spaces like parks and libraries
- repair roads
- manage bins
- look after street lighting

government

Makes decisions that affect the whole country:

- laws
- education
- transport
- healthcare
- how public money is spent

Local people can share their worries with the councillor in a surgery.



Remember

Sharing a view or worry does not always mean the decision will change. Decision-makers must think about cost, fairness, need and different viewpoints.

Individuals and groups can help their communities in lots of ways:



local park groups



charity volunteers



youth clubs



To influence a decision made by the government or local council, you can:

- contact a councillor about a local issue;
- contact an MP about a national issue;
- sign or start a petition with adult support;
- support a pressure group;
- organise or support a campaign;
- take part in a peaceful protest with adult support;
- vote when you are old enough.

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