

The Electoral Commission

Shape the future of democratic education!

The Electoral Commission is inviting **schools, colleges and youth groups** to take part in **piloting a new framework** for high-quality **democratic education**, running from **September 2026 to January 2027**.

As the UK Government moves towards **lowering the voting age**, this pilot will support you to equip young people with the **understanding and skills** they need to **participate confidently** and give you a chance to **influence how the framework develops nationally**.

What is the framework?

Developed by The Electoral Commission and The Politics Project, the democratic education framework provides clear **guidance, classroom resources and training** to help educators deliver **impartial and engaging** learning about democracy, voting and elections.

The framework focuses on six key pillars:



Understand – learn how the UK is governed, where power sits, and how decisions are made



Take part – learn how elections work, how to register and vote, and why voting matters



Engage – understand and interact with elected representatives and decision makers



Experience – everyday democratic culture, shared decision-making, and youth voice



Influence – take action to influence decisions, policies and social issues



Navigate – access, understand, and critically evaluate media and political information

What's involved?

- Join a **webinar** to find out more about the pilot and ask any questions - **CPD opportunities** will also be available
- Complete a short **self-assessment of your current democratic education provision** at the start of term, using our online tool
- Use the framework to **identify ways to improve provision** through high-quality **resources, workshops and lesson plans**
- Share **brief feedback** on your experience of using the framework and how it could be improved in **January 2027**

Why take part?

- Strengthen your **Citizenship and Personal Development** offer
- Access **impartial, ready-to-use teaching resources**
- Build **staff confidence** through CPD and training
- **Equip young people** with the **understanding and skills** they need to participate confidently in democracy
- Help **shape national guidance** for democratic education ahead of roll-out of the framework in Spring 2027
- Be entered into a **£500 prize draw** to be used for school resources!

Next steps

[Complete this form](#) to register your interest by **Friday 10 July**.

If you have any questions, email educationengagement@electoralcommission.org.uk



The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK.

The Education Team provides engaging, accurate and impartial information about democracy, elections and voting so that young people can cast their votes confidently.