

Welsh Parliament
Visit and learn

Explore Parliament:

Activity Book



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people.

Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

Representing you

The people who are elected every five years represent you at the Senedd, and have powers to shape most areas of life in Wales.

The Llywydd is called:

My constituency Member of the Senedd or MS is:

My regional Members of the Senedd or MSs are:

▷ Did you know?

In Wales, everyone is represented by five Members of the Senedd. These are people from across Wales who can bring your concerns to the Senedd.

You're also represented by one Member of the UK Parliament. Members of the Senedd and Members of the UK Parliament look at different things.

Senedd or UK Parliament?

The list below shows some areas of life in Wales, but who do you think is responsible for looking at them:

Members of the Senedd, or **Members of the UK Parliament**?

Put a cross in the circle to show who you think looks at each area.

Areas of life	Welsh Parliament	UK Parliament
Bus services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prisons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electricity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Museum Wales	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender recognition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Autism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Modern slavery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet safety in schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Members of the Senedd

Members of the Senedd hold regular surgeries, giving you the chance to voice your concerns in person, and have your say.

Make a list of other work your MS would undertake:

▷ Did you know?

Wales is a devolved nation.

This means that some major areas of life (devolved matters) in Wales are the responsibility of the Members of the Senedd, whilst other areas (reserved matters) remain the responsibility of the UK Parliament and UK Government.

Since 1999, devolution has transferred powers from Westminster to the Senedd and Welsh Government.

▷ Did you know?

The Senedd changed its name in 2020 from the National Assembly for Wales/Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru to the Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru.

Senedd is the Welsh word for **Parliament**.

Online Research:

Plenary is a meeting that happens twice a week, where all Members of the Senedd come together to discuss important issues.

Use the Senedd website to find out what is happening in Plenary this week.

List 3 topics the MSs will be discussing this week in Plenary:

Online Research

Find out about a recent petition submitted to the Petition's Committee.

Do you agree with the petitioner's idea for change? Why?

Did you know?

The Senedd's Petition's Committee look at campaigns and ideas sent in from individuals and groups in Wales.

You can sign these petitions or submit your own by searching petitions on the **senedd.wales** website.

Online Research:

Many campaign groups and organisations contact Members of the Senedd to raise issues about their concerns and to seek change.

This is called lobbying.

Find out more about the following groups:



Your vote, Your voice

Members of the Senedd are elected every 5 years. Everyone in Wales aged 16 or over have two votes in Senedd elections.

Can you explain how your constituency Member of the Senedd is elected:

Can you explain how your regional Members of the Senedd are elected:

▷ Did you know?

16 and 17 year olds were allowed to vote for the first time in the Senedd elections in May 2021.

Forming a government

After an election the party with the greatest number of seats will form a government.

The Welsh Government runs the country. It suggests the majority of new laws and is responsible for government departments and spending. If no political party has an overall majority a coalition government might be formed, where two or more political parties work together to run the country.

Which Welsh Government Minister or Deputy Minister is responsible for the following subjects:

Sport:

The Welsh Language:

Presumed Consent for Organ Donation:

Body Piercing (Age of Consent):

Cycling Routes:

School standards:

Food safety:

Housing:

Can you list ways in which Members of the Senedd, can check up on the government's work:

Making laws to shape Wales

The Senedd makes laws for Wales, called Acts of the Senedd. In draft form these are called Bills.

There are four main steps in this process. Put the steps in order by inserting 1-4 by each statement.

The sticky notes are arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each note is light grey with a pink corner and a pink circle at the bottom left. The top-left note has a green checkmark icon and contains the text: 'A vote by the Senedd to pass the final wording of the Bill.' The top-right note has a thinking face emoji and contains the text: 'Members of the Senedd decide if Wales needs a new law.' The bottom-left note has a speech bubble icon and contains the text: 'Members of the Senedd meet in Plenary to look at the Bill, review suggestions, make further improvements and make final changes to its wording.' The bottom-right note has a pink pencil icon and contains the text: 'A committee considers the Bill (one line at a time) and make changes to the wording.'

▷ Did you know?

The Queen grants Royal Assent to the Bill after Stage 4. It's a formal agreement that the Bill can become an Act of the Senedd, a new Welsh law.

Before 2011 all laws were called Measures.

👉 Online Research

Use the Senedd website to find some other laws passed by the Senedd.

Name another law passed by the Senedd, and explain the purpose of this law:

▷ Did you know?

Members of the Senedd consult with expert witnesses and often seek the opinion of different organisations and members of the public to help them form a new law for Wales.

Examples include:

Active Travel (Wales) Act – requires local authorities to improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and consider their needs when planning new road schemes.

Human Transplantation (Wales) Act – introduces a soft opt-out system for organ and tissue donation, where consent is deemed as having been given, unless the deceased objected during their lifetime.

Budget scrutiny

The UK Government collects taxes from everyone in the UK. Part of this money comes back to Wales to provide funds for the Welsh Government to run the country.

It's the Senedd's job to check how this money is being spent during annual budget reviews in Plenary.

▷ Did you know?

The Welsh Revenue Authority is also responsible for collecting some additional taxes in Wales.

Members of the Senedd will check every new tax suggestion to make sure it's fair and checks how the Welsh Government spends the public's money.

Online Research:

Use the Welsh Revenue Authority website to find out about some taxes they collect in Wales: gov.wales/welsh-revenue-authority

Can you name some taxes the Welsh Revenue Authority collects in Wales:

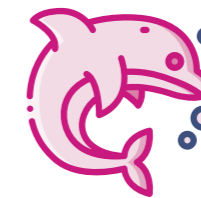
Which Committees look at government spending on the following topics?

Write the number from the committee list in the circle.

1. Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
2. Health and Social Care Committee
3. Children, Young People and Education Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee



Welsh Government Draft Budget



Marine Conservation



Museums



Peer – to – peer harassment among secondary school pupils in Wales



Hospital discharge of patients



Meeting my Member

Name the Member or Members you've met today:

Name a committee that they are part of:

What is the highlight of their career so far:

What do they believe in:

What are their priorities for change, for young people:

What campaigns have they been involved with recently:

Discussion points

 **Do you think the Senedd should receive more powers?**


- If yes, in what areas?
- If no, why not?

 **What is the purpose of having different political parties?**

- Which party would you vote for?

 **Why do you think voter turnout is low for Senedd elections?**

- What could be done about this?

 **“For effective scrutiny, the Senedd must increase in size from 60 Members to between 80-100.”**






- Do you agree or disagree?
- Why?



Online Research:

In this booklet, there are lots of opportunities to do some online research to find the answers to some of the questions.

Here's a list of some useful websites that you can use to learn more about the Senedd.

-  www.senedd.wales
-  www.senedd.wales/how-we-work
-  www.senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-Senedd
-  www.senedd.wales/committees
-  www.gov.wales/cabinet-members-and-ministers

Glossary

Plenary

This is the term used to describe the full meeting of all 60 Members in the Siambr (the main chamber of the Senedd building) to conduct business. Plenary meetings currently take place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons during Term Time.

Lobbying

Lobbying is when individuals, businesses, trade unions, groups or charities try to get a government to change its policies.

Devolution

Devolution is the transfer or delegation of power to a more local level. In Wales, powers have been devolved from UK Ministers to Welsh Ministers and law-making powers from the UK Parliament to the Welsh Parliament.

Surgery

A political surgery or clinic is a series of one-to-one meetings that a Member of the Senedd may have with his or her constituents, at which a constituent may raise issues of local concern.

Bill

A Bill is a proposed law. If the Senedd approves the proposals then the Bill is ready to become an Act.

Act of the Senedd

If the Senedd approves the proposals of a proposed law or Bill it is ready to become an Act. A Bill can only become an Act of the Senedd once it has been approved by the Monarch, a process called Royal Assent. Acts are often referred to as primary legislation.

Scrutiny

When the Senedd examines the work of the Welsh Government, this process is called 'scrutiny'.

Committee

Committees are small groups of Members from different political parties. Committees scrutinise proposed laws (Bills) and Welsh Government policies and make recommendations for improvements.

Petition

A process through which members of the public can bring specific issues to the attention of the Senedd. Petitions can be submitted by individuals or organisations on any topic within the Senedd's powers.





Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

www.senedd.cymru | www.senedd.wales