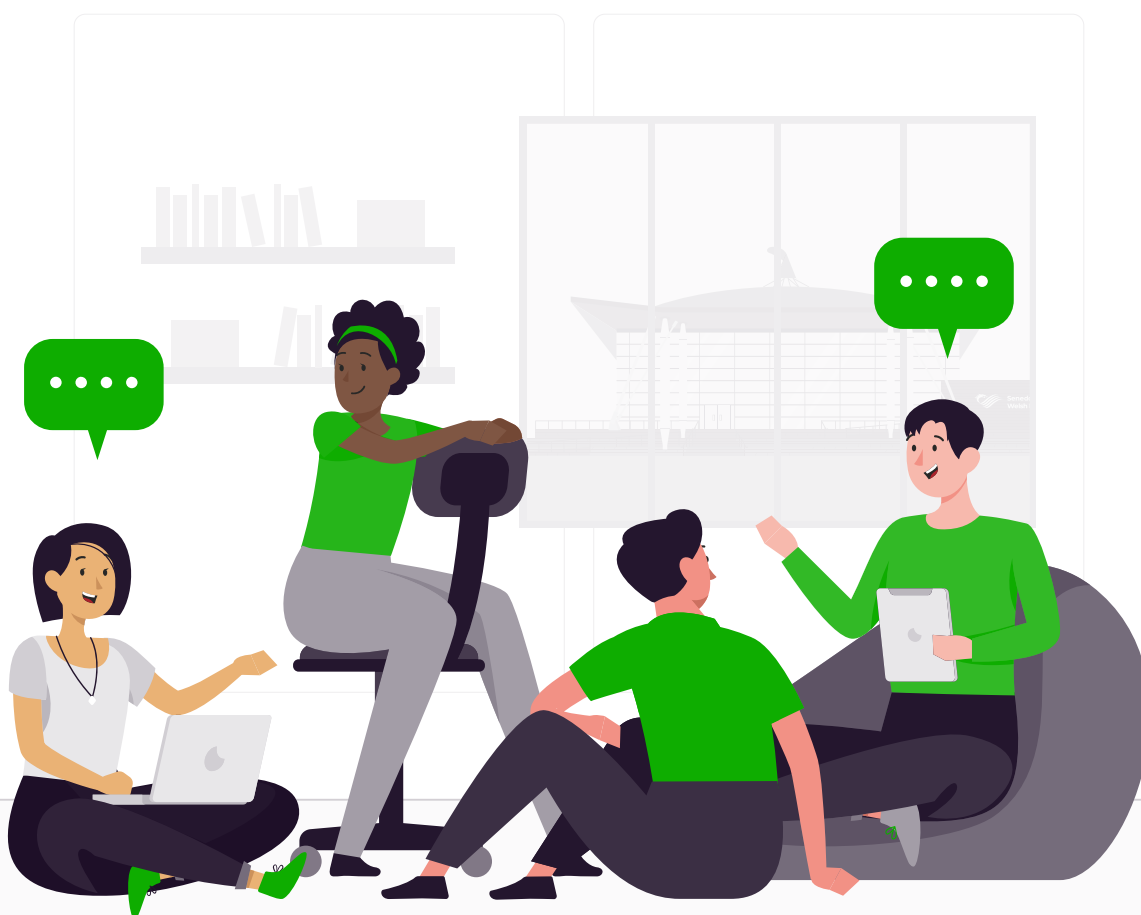


Representing You:

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.

The Senedd

We make laws, set taxes and oversee the work of the Welsh Government.

Discover more about the Senedd, our role representing you and how we hold the Welsh Government to account.

My constituency is called:

.....

.....

Outline the main roles of the Members of the Senedd:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

My constituency's Members of the Senedd are called:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Outline some key differences between the UK Parliament and the Senedd:

Senedd Cymru	UK Parliament
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

Powers of the Senedd

The Senedd is able to pass Acts on any matters that are not reserved to the UK Parliament by the Government of Wales Act 2006 (as amended by the Wales Act 2017).

The list below shows some areas of life in Wales - who do you think is responsible for passing Acts on these matters:

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	Senedd Cymru	UK Parliament
Buses	☐	☐
Prisons	☐	☐
Electricity	☐	☐
National Museum of Wales	☐	☐
Gender recognition	☐	☐
Autism	☐	☐
Modern slavery	☐	☐



Areas of life	Senedd Cymru	UK Parliament
Charities	☐	☐
Second homes	☐	☐
Dangerous dogs	☐	☐
S4C	☐	☐
Sports safety	☐	☐
Taxi licensing	☐	☐
Internet safety in schools	☐	☐

Did you know?

The role of the Llywydd of the Senedd mirrors the roles of Speakers and Presiding Officers in parliaments across the world.

The Llywydd remains politically impartial at all times.

Roles and responsibilities

What are the roles of the Llywydd?

What are the roles of the First Minister?

How does the Senedd scrutinise the Welsh Government?

Did you know?

Members of the Senedd check the work of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the Welsh Government.

Members of the Senedd scrutinise every new tax or law suggestion to make sure it's fair.

The Welsh Government runs Wales

There are Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the Welsh Government. They suggest the majority of new laws and are responsible for government departments and spending.

Find out which Ministers and Deputy Ministers are responsible for the following areas of life:

Mine / Coal tip safety:

Universities:

Sport:

Tackling homelessness:

Active Travel:

EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance):

The new Senedd

Complete the blanks:

Changes in the Senedd	2021 election	2026 election
Voting age		
Voting method	First Past The Post (FPTP)	
Members of the Senedd		96
Number of constituencies	40	
Number of Members per constituency		
Maximum number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers in Welsh Government	14	
Elections every ... years	5	
Number of Members who can scrutinise the Welsh Government	44	

Outline the advantages and disadvantages of the changes to the Senedd which will be in place from the May 2026 election:

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Did you know?
16 and 17 year olds can vote in the Senedd elections.

They were allowed to vote for the first time in the May 2021 Senedd elections.

Making laws in Wales

A Bill is a draft law. Once a Bill has been passed by the Senedd and given Royal Assent by the King, it becomes an ‘Act of the Senedd’.

Match the following laws with the correct year:

2011

2002

2007

2001

2022

2013

2020

2007

Food Hygiene Rating:
.....

Ending physical punishment for children:
.....

Establishing the role of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales:
.....

Free bus passes for all pensioners:
.....

Smoking ban in public places:
.....

Free NHS prescriptions:
.....

Paying for a plastic bag:
.....

Lowering the voting age to 16:
.....



Online Research:
Do some research and find one example of a current Government-led Bill in Wales.

What is the name of the Bill and what have you found out about it?
.....
.....
.....
.....



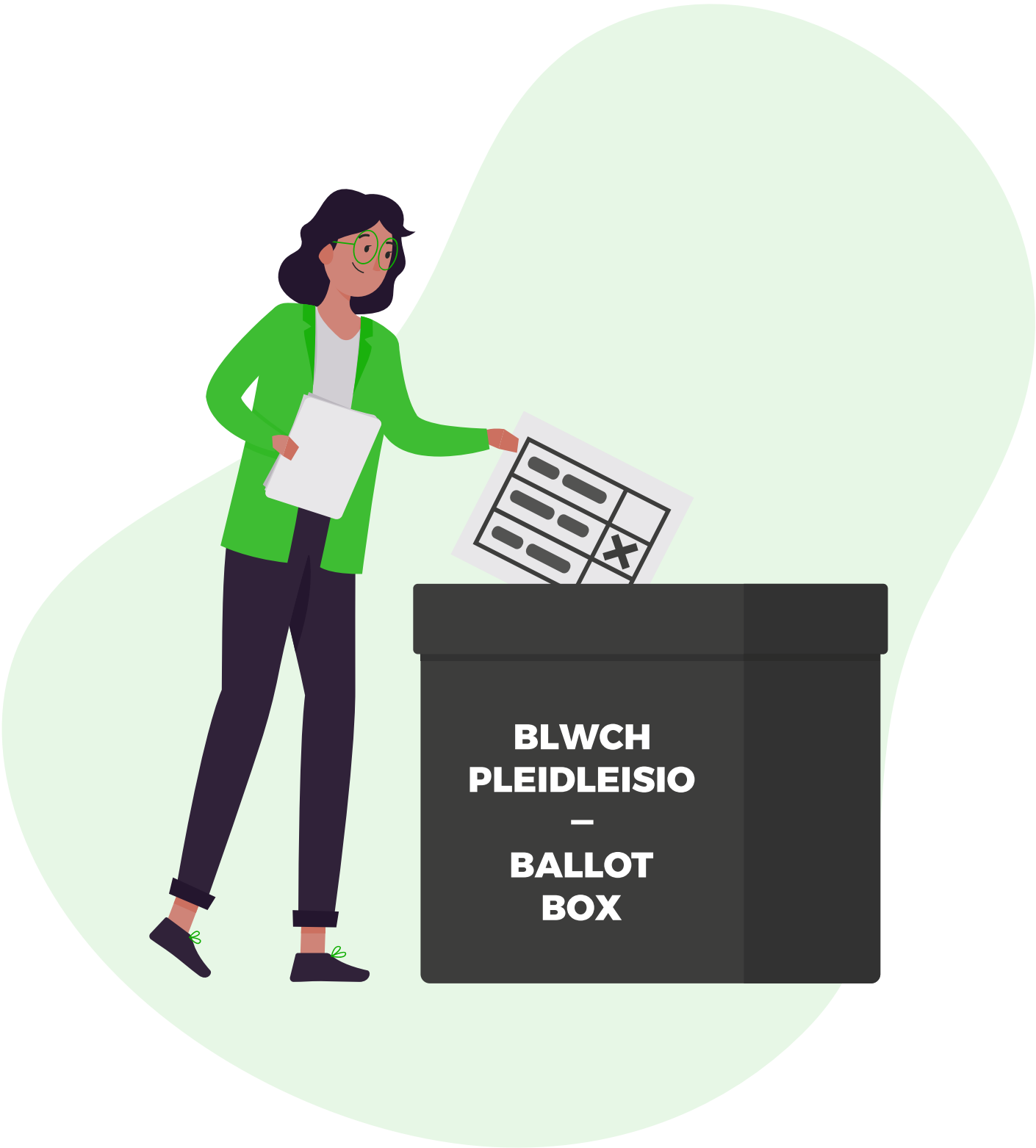
Online Research:
Do some research and find one example of a current Member-led Bill in Wales.

What is the name of the Bill and what have you found out about it?
.....
.....
.....
.....



Online Research:
Do some research and find one example of a current ‘Act of the Senedd’ in Wales.

What is the name of the Act and what have you found out about it?
.....
.....
.....
.....



Your vote, your voice

The voting system for Senedd elections is called a ‘closed proportional list system.’ This means the number of seats a party or independent candidate wins will more closely reflect the percentage of votes they get.

Political parties will list up to eight candidates for each constituency. Independent candidates can also stand for election. You will only vote for one party or one independent candidate.

How are Members elected?

Vote counts takes place in rounds, with the party with the highest total in each round winning the seat. Let’s use the table below to look at an example of this and see how it changes in each round.

	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Independent candidate
Votes	300	210	120	30	10

Round 1

As the party with the most votes - Party A would win the first seat. The first candidate on their list would be elected.

	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Independent candidate
Votes	300	210	120	30	10
Round 1	300	210	120	30	10

Party A’s votes would then be divided by two for the next round.
Example: Party A: 300/(1+1 seat) = 150

Round 2

In the next round, Party B now has the highest number of votes, so they win a seat. The first candidate on their list will be elected.

	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Independent candidate
Votes	300	210	120	30	10
Round 1	300	210	120	30	10
Round 2	150	210	120	30	10

Party B’s votes would then be divided by two for the next round.

Example: Party B: 210/(1+1 seat) = 105

Round 3

In the third round, Party A has the highest total of votes again and wins a second seat. The second person on this party’s list would now be elected.

	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Independent candidate
Votes	300	210	120	30	10
Round 1	300	210	120	30	10
Round 2	150	210	120	30	10
Round 3	150	105	120	30	10

Party A’s original vote total (300) is now divided by three (1 + 2 seats they have already won).

Example: Party A: 300/(1+2 seats) = 100

This continues until all the seats are filled. In this example:

- Party A will win 3 seats
- Party B will win 2 seats
- Party C will win 1 seat

	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	Independent candidate
Votes	300	210	120	30	10
Round 1	300	210	120	30	10
Round 2	150	210	120	30	10
Round 3	150	105	120	30	10
Round 4	100	105	120	30	10
Round 5	100	105	60	30	10
Round 6	100	70	60	30	10
Elected:	3	2	1	-	-

The system makes sure the number of seats each party or independent candidate wins is closer to the percentage of votes they received.

1. What % of the vote did Party A win?

2. What % of the seats did Party A win?

3. What % of the vote did Party B win?

4. What % of the seats did Party B win?

5. What % of the vote did Party C win?

6. What % of the seats did Party C win?

Did you know?

The Senedd's Petitions Committee looks 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.

Senedd committees

Outline what are the main responsibilities and tasks of Senedd committees.

What do you think makes an effective and influential committee?

Case studies

Who would you invite to give evidence for the following inquiries, the petition and the scrutiny of a draft legislation?

Inquiry: Barriers to employment faced by disabled people:

Inquiry: Pupil absences in school:

Petition: Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales (with exemptions for exceptional circumstances):

Draft legislation: Single-Use Plastics Bill:

Did you know?

As part of their work in committees, Members of the Senedd consult with experts and specialist witnesses.

They do it to seek opinions of different organisations and members of the public, to help with their inquiry work or with forming a new law.

Glossary

A glossary of parliamentary terms

Devolution

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

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 a proposed law or a 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 King, 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.

Llywydd

The Llywydd is a Member of the Senedd elected to act as Chair during Plenary meetings. The role of the Llywydd of the Senedd mirrors the roles of Speakers and Presiding Officers in parliaments across the world.

First Minister of Wales

The First Minister is the leader of the Welsh Government and is primarily responsible for the forming and developing of the Welsh Government policies, as well as representing Wales at home and abroad.

Ministers and Deputy Ministers

The Welsh Ministers and Deputy Ministers are chosen by the First Minister after an election. Each of them is responsible for a key area such as education, health or transport.

