

## **School elections – vocabulary**



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## Preface

We have researched, drafted, tested, modified and published three booklets, *School elections guidelines*, *School elections – student’s notes*, *School elections – monitoring and evaluation*, which already serve as resources for the running of school elections, for moral and citizenship education, and case study work in schools.

Continuing this series of Student Leadership publications, is our fourth booklet, *School Elections – vocabulary*. The vocabulary is an alphabetical list of selected election and related words with definitions from the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary<sup>1</sup>. It is a valuable resource for students and teachers, for class room, debating, club and informal use.

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<sup>1</sup> Oxford University Press. Oxford UK. 2002.

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## School elections - vocabulary

**Appeal** - A request to a higher authority for alteration of a decision.  
- A call to an authority for a decision in one's favour.

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<b>Ballot</b>	System of secret voting
<b>Ballot box</b>	Box used to contain ballot papers
<b>Ballot papers</b>	Voting paper used in a ballot
<b>Bribe</b>	Money or reward offered or demanded in order to procure an action or decision in favour of the giver

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<b>Candidate</b>	A person who seeks, is nominated or considered likely or worthy to gain a position
<b>Character</b>	- Collective qualities, moral and mental, that characterise a person. - A description, report, or the estimate formed of a person's qualities, reputation and good repute. - Moral strength, especially if highly developed or evident.
<b>Choose</b>	Select, pick, take by preference out of all that are available.
<b>Choice</b>	- Deciding between possibilities. - An alternative, option. - A person (or thing) specially chosen or selected.
<b>Civil rights</b>	The rights of each citizen to liberty, equality, etc.
<b>Civil liberty</b>	Being subject only to laws established for the good of the community.
<b>Citizen</b>	- A member, native or naturalised of a State or Commonwealth. - An inhabitant, an occupant of a city or town, especially one possessing civic rights.
<b>Citizenship</b>	The status of being a citizen.
<b>Collaborate</b>	Work jointly with.
<b>Committee</b>	A body of two or more people appointed for some special function by, and usually out of a larger group.

<b>Consensus</b>	Agreement or unity, of opinion, testimony, etc. An agreement by different parties.
<b>Congregation</b>	The body of people regularly attending a particular church.
<b>Congregational</b>	Performed by a congregation.
<b>Congregationalism</b>	A system of ecclesiastical organisation that leaves the legislative, disciplinary and judicial functions to individual churches and congregations – in contrast to systems where these functions are carried out centrally or nationally.
<b>Corruption</b>	To solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any goods of monetary value, or other benefit, ie. a gift, favour, promise or advantage for himself, herself or another person or entity, in exchange for an act or omission in performance of public duty.

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<b>Debate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss or argue a matter, especially in a public assembly.</li> <li>- Deliberate, ponder, consider, in one's mind.</li> </ul>
<b>Democracy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A state or community in which the power of government resides in or is exercised by the people.</li> <li>- A form of government in which power is exercised by the people, either <i>directly</i> or <i>indirectly</i>, when the people elect representatives, who act on their behalf.</li> </ul>
<b>Dialogue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A conversation, verbal interchange of thought or discussion between two or more people.</li> <li>- The exchange of proposals, valuable or constructive communication between different groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Disciplinary</b>	Pertaining to, promoting or enforcing disciplined behaviour.
<b>Discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Controlled and orderly behaviour resulting from training.</li> <li>- Give instruction to, educate, train, esp. in habits of obedience.</li> <li>- Bring under control.</li> </ul>

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<b>Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ability to accomplish or fulfil what is intended. Producing the desired result with the minimum wasted effort.</li> <li>- Of a person – capable, competent.</li> </ul>
<b>Elect</b>	Pick out, select a person or thing; choose a person by vote for an office or position.

**Election** - The choice of a person to fill a vacancy in a representative body by a vote amongst those represented.  
- The occasion of such a choice.

**Electorate** All those entitled to vote.

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**Fair** - A person or action that is just, unbiased, impartial, legitimate.  
- According to the rules or standards.  
- Conduct that is free from moral stain.

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**Government** - The system by which a nation, community, etc., is governed.  
- The governing power in a state.  
- The action of governing, authoritative direction or regulation.  
- The function of governing, authority to govern.

**Govern** - Conduct the policy, actions and affairs or regulate the proceedings of a State or subjects.  
- Have under protective guardianship.  
- Control, influence, regulate or determine another, actions, the course or issue of events.  
- Guide direct lead, control.  
- Administer, manage (an undertaking or establishment)

**Governance** - The action, manner or fact of governing.  
- Controlling or regulating influence, good order.

**Governable** Able to be governed, amenable to being governed.

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**Harmony** - Agreement of feeling or sentiment, accord.  
- Combination and/or arrangement of separate parts to produce a pleasing overall effect.

**Honest** - Actions of feelings showing sincerity of character or intention; fair, straightforward, free from fraud.  
- Things that are exactly as they appear; genuine, unadulterated.  
- Money or gain: acquired by fair means.  
- A person: marked by uprightness; fair and righteous in speech and act, fundamentally sincere or truthful; not lying, cheating or stealing. Of good moral character.  
- Without disguise; open, frank, truthful.

**Hustings** - The proceedings of an election, specifically the platform from which candidates present.

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**Impartial** Not favouring one side more than another; unprejudiced, unbiased, fair.

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**Judicial** Dealing with the administration of justice.

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**Leader**

- A person who conducts others, precedes others as a guide.
- A person who guides others in action or opinion; a person who takes the lead in a business, enterprise or movement.
- The official head or chief spokesperson of a nation, group or deliberative body.
- A person of eminent position and influence.

**Leadership**

- The office or position of leader
- The action of leading or influencing; ability to lead or influence.
- The leaders of a group.

**Legislative** That has the function of making laws.

**Liaise** Establish communication or cooperation, act as a link.

**Liberal**

- Open to the reception of new ideas; without undue favour to traditional or established ways or institutions.
- Favourable to or respectful of individual rights or freedoms.
- Unprejudiced, open-minded; directed to a general broadening of the mind.

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**Manifesto** - Printed declaration of policy : equally, a manifesto is ‘a piece of evidence.’

**Mentor**

- To advise or train.
- An experienced and trusted advisor or guide, a tutor.

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**Neutral**

- Taking neither side or view in a dispute, controversy, disagreement, war, competition.
- Impartial, dispassionate.

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**Objective** Presenting facts uncoloured by feelings, opinions or personal bias.



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<b>Parliament</b>	A consultative or legislative assembly. The supreme executive legislature, in a country for example.
<b>Participate</b>	Take a part, or a share in, an activity or decisions.
<b>Peace</b>	- Freedom from civil disorder; freedom from disturbance, from quarrels or dissension between individuals. - Quiet, calm.
<b>Polite</b>	Courteous, treating others with respect and consideration; having or displaying good manners.
<b>Power</b>	- Ability to do, to act, or to affect something strongly. - Strength, might, vigour, energy, effectiveness. - A person in authority, a ruler. - Possession of control or authority over others. - Legal authority to act for another, especially in a particular capacity.
<b>Public</b>	- In a place, way, open to general view or observation. - Existing or done openly.
<b>Publish</b>	Declare or report openly. Announce in a formal or official manner.

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<b>Reliable</b>	Trustworthy, safe, sure.
<b>Respect</b>	- Treat or show deferential esteem towards a person or thing. - Refrain from injuring, harming, insulting, interfering with or interrupting.
<b>Responsibility</b>	A duty, a charge, a thing or person for which one is responsible.
<b>Responsible</b>	- Capable of fulfilling an obligation or trust. - Reliable, trustworthy, of good reputation.

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<b>Society</b>	A body of people forming a community, or living under the same government.
<b>Stability</b>	Firmly fixed; enduring; a fixed or settled thing.
<b>Student</b>	A person following a course of study and instruction.
<b>Study</b>	The devotion of time and attention to acquiring information or knowledge.

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<b>Team</b>	A number of people associated in some joint action, collaborating in their professional work or in a particular enterprise or task; or forming one side in a game or sport.
<b>True</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A statement or report that is consistent with fact, conforming with reality.</li> <li>- Genuine, not counterfeit, spurious or imaginary.</li> </ul>
<b>Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faith or confidence in the loyalty, strength, veracity, of a person or thing.</li> <li>- A confident expectation.</li> <li>- Rely on a person or thing, have faith or confidence that something is or will be the case.</li> <li>- Reliance on the truth of a statement, without examination.</li> </ul>

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<b>Unity</b>	Oneness. Agreeing or being one in feeling, opinion, purpose, or action; agreement, concord, harmony.
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<b>Values</b>	The principles or moral standards of a person or social group; the generally accepted or personally held judgement of what is valuable and important in life.
<b>Vote</b>	Expression of choice or opinion by a ballot or show of hands, etc.

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