

People vote for a government and governments make laws that are approved in parliament. Ask the children to complete the sentence: If I could vote, I would vote for someone who... (for example) has done good things for my community.



Or ask them to complete the sentence: If I could change society, I would make it more... fair, tolerant, generous...

Invite children to think of one new law that they would like to bring in. What would it be? You could also encourage humorous examples, such as 'promised to make school holidays longer.'

20. Who is keeping us safe in Britain?



Safety and security

Many different people in Britain help to look after us and keep us safe. The people who have most to do with keeping children safe are *parents and carers*. They provide children with a home, food to eat and clothes to wear. They must also make sure that children from the age of five have a proper education, either at home or school. These duties are set out by law.

School leaders and teachers are responsible for looking after children during school hours. They have very important rules for looking after children which are called 'safeguarding' rules. These rules are there to protect children from any harm that might come to them.

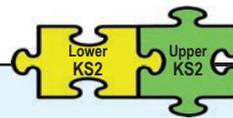
The police carry out patrols in our towns and cities and in the countryside. Police forces all around Britain work together to share what they know about criminals and to prevent crimes like terrorism. If a crime is committed, they also find and arrest the criminals.

It is impossible to protect places like train stations and airports completely because thousands of people walk through them every day. But police are on duty in these places all the time, and there are special police forces for different kinds of transport. Their job is to watch out very carefully for people who might be carrying weapons, or who might put down a bag or a suitcase with a bomb in it. Passengers are told to stay with their bags at all times. The suitcases of all airline



travellers are checked by X-ray machines. Passengers have to walk through a metal detector that can detect explosives or guns. Airport workers have a special badge with their name and photo on it. Everyone who works on or with aircraft is very carefully checked.

Britain has extremely strict laws that do not allow people to buy guns unless they have special permission to do so. Criminals sometimes manage to get weapons anyway but this happens less often in Britain than in other countries. This is because Britain is an island nation. The sea makes it more difficult for criminals and weapons to arrive from other countries without being noticed. *Police and customs officers* watch our airports, stations, ports and harbours very carefully. They patrol our borders to stop criminals from bringing drugs, guns and explosives into the country. They often use specially trained dogs to do this.



True story

Super hound Brewster – No ordinary dog!



www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/14212310.Police_dog_Brewster_now_set_to_lap_up_the_good_life/

Brewster was an English Springer-Spaniel. He was born in North Yorkshire but he had so much energy that his owners couldn't look after him properly, so they gave him to the police. Brewster worked for 10 years in a special police dog team with his trainer PC Dave Pert. Brewster's incredible nose led the police to discover large amounts of drugs and weapons. Brewster also helped the police to find and arrest the criminals who were trying to hide them. Brewster retired from the police force at the age of 13. PC Pert said he would be spending his retirement at home, enjoying all his favourite hobbies like chasing tennis balls, swimming in rivers, eating dog treats and napping.

(Note: Brewster died in June 2017, aged 15, after a short illness.)

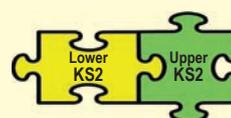
Invite children to read the story of Brewster on computers. Brewster has a special set of skills or qualities. What are the most important things Brewster had to learn? How do you train a dog like Brewster compared to a pet dog?



Ask the children to design a poster showing the different groups of people who keep them safe. This could be used as a focal point on a display wall.

As children read the article, ask them to make notes of the roles Brewster had. Either as a PowerPoint presentation, or as a piece of writing, ask the children to create 'A day in the life of Brewster'.

Ask the children to write down all the people in society who keep them safe, and explain how they achieve this. If possible encourage children to invite a representative from one of these groups into school to discuss his/her role.



There are security cameras on many streets and on public buildings, shops and banks. *Security guards* keep a watch on these buildings too. If someone tries to break in or commit a crime, cameras will record the scene. Police will study the film later to see who the criminals are.



Britain's *security services* are also very important for keeping us safe. These organisations are not the same as the police. The people who work there don't wear uniform, so we do not recognise them on the streets. They work more secretly and don't talk about what they do. The job of the security services is to protect Britain from all kinds of attack, including terrorism. They are sometimes called 'intelligence services'. This is because they use technology and information in a clever way to discover secret threats and dangers to Britain. They try to stop criminal plans and plots before they are put into action. They don't wait for a crime to happen and then investigate it.

Britain's armed forces – the British Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force – are also involved in protecting us. They have planes, helicopters, submarines, ships and land vehicles. They also have powerful radar and electronic equipment. With all this equipment, the armed forces can detect threats to Britain, even if they



The army has powerful helicopters that help to keep Britain safe