

## HOL Script – Primary

Lots of things that can affect us all are discussed and decided in the UK Parliament.

And while it's the Government's job to run the country, it's Parliament's job to check and challenge what the Government does.

Parliament is made up of two Houses – the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Let's take a closer look at what happens in the House of Lords.

The House of Lords chamber is where important topics are debated, laws are checked and where its members can question government ministers about the work they are doing.

The House of Lords is the appointed chamber of UK Parliament. There are around 800 members known as Lords and Baronesses. The majority of members are life peers who are chosen for their knowledge and experience.

There is also a small group of 'hereditary peers', and some bishops from the Church of England. They use their skills to look carefully at new laws in detail and to check the work of Government through debates and questions. Although many life peers have worked in politics, there are lots of others who have specialist experience in other jobs.

There are doctors, soldiers, scientists, writers, teachers, actors, sportspeople and many other jobs represented in the House of Lords. There are even members that have competed in the Olympics and Paralympics!

So, the House of Lords is made up of people from all walks of life who can bring different experiences and perspectives to debates. Together they use their experience from inside and outside of Parliament to check and challenge Government. And all of this helps improve the way the country is run for all of us.

The House of Lords chamber is laid out with the Government on one side and the Opposition parties on the other. Sitting on the benches that cross the chamber are members who don't belong to a political party. They are called Crossbenchers.

The Lord Speaker sits between the Government and the Opposition parties. They are elected by the other members of the House of Lords and they never take sides in debates!

So, members of the House of Lords have the time and expertise to really concentrate on checking the work of Government and looking in detail, line by line, at ideas for new laws to make sure they are the best they can be. This is really important because the Government cannot make new laws without Parliament's agreement.

Whatever your age, there are loads of ways to get involved and get your voice heard. So, if there's an issue that you feel strongly about you can contact a member of the House of Lords who has an interest in or experience of the issue.

What will you do?