

CURRICULUM GUIDE CRITERIA: 9 KEY THEMES

Guidance for Education & Teaching Staff



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This document outlines VotesforSchools' 9 Key Themes. All VoteTopics are mapped to one of these themes in our weekly Curriculum Guides.

Use the contents below to explore each key theme. You can also use the keywords listed to search for previous VoteTopics on our website.

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Our other guidance documents include information about how the 9 Key Themes can support and enhance your curriculum offer, from British Values to PSHE to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Find all these documents - and more - on your Teacher Dashboard.

KEY THEME 1: HEALTH & WELLBEING

MENTAL WELLBEING

Mental health disorders, stress, work-life balance, sport, exercise, mindfulness, happiness, emotional health, loss & bereavement, self-esteem, body image, eating disorders, self-harm, abuse, suicide

HEALTH & MEDICINE

NHS, obesity, diet, malnutrition, smoking, drugs, alcohol, gambling, addiction, vaccines, antibiotics, HIV/AIDS, sanitation, periods, medicine, disease & diagnoses, cancer, organ donation, sexual health, menopause, miscarriage, abortion

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Positive relationships, friendship, parenting, family types, young carers, personal safety, sexualisation, consent, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, pornography, exploitation, forced marriage, FGM





KEY THEME 2: EQUALITIES & IDENTITY

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Gender, race, age, sex, sexuality, religion, disability/learning difficulties, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity

ATTITUDES & ISMS

Sexism, gender equality, feminism, racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, transphobia, allyship, prejudice, stereotyping, neurodiversity, discrimination, stigma, bullying, banter, toxic masculinity, “lad” culture, harassment, hate crime, self-expression (e.g. tattoos & piercings)

SOCIETAL ISSUES

Human rights, integration, immigration/emigration, passports, citizenship, tolerance, power, vulnerability

KEY THEME 3: ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change, pollution, natural resources, energy, nuclear power, recycling, factory farming, sustainability, travel, air quality, transportation

WEATHER & CLIMATE

Natural disasters (cause & prevention), extreme weather events, migration, environmental refugees

NATURE & ECOSYSTEMS

Wildlife, animal welfare, conservation, extinction, plastic, the three Rs, consumerism, food waste, housing, greenspace, forests, waterways, oceans, soil health, sustainable development



KEY THEME 4: GLOBAL ISSUES & POLITICS

UK ISSUES

UK political parties, devolution, general elections, local elections, censuses, surveys, polls, referenda, crisis response, cronyism, cost of living, inequalities, free school meals

GLOBAL ISSUES

War & peace, refugees, poverty, population, food & water scarcity, colonialism & Empire, corruption, conflict, access to education, health epidemics, transparency, interdependence, populism, inequality, globalisation, military, nuclear weapons, biosecurity, famine, power, humanitarian crises, trafficking

POLITICIANS & SYSTEMS

Political leaders, political movements, political spectrum, types of electoral system, democracy & democratisation, dictators, national identity, freedom of speech, international security



KEY THEME 5: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DISCOVERIES & RESEARCH

New scientific research, GM crops, lab-grown meat, stem cell research, controversial scientific innovations, infrastructure, ethics

DEVICES & DATA

Personal devices (e.g. mobile phones & tablets), life online, social media, gaming, streaming, influencer culture, algorithms, surveillance, privacy, data storage, cybersecurity

THE FUTURE OF TECH

Artificial intelligence (AI), drones, robots, virtual reality (VR), automation of cars and jobs, the changing of the news, space exploration & travel

KEY THEME 6: COMMUNITY & CHARITY

CITIZENSHIP

Society, shared values, respecting differences, integration, immigration, multiculturalism, public sector, services, housing, family life, inequalities between parts of the UK, lifestyles, foreign aid, international solidarity

CHARITY & ALTRUISM

Local charities, fundraising, child poverty, food banks, supporting the elderly, homelessness, neighbours & communities across borders (e.g. the EU)

COMMUNITY ACTION

Petitioning, campaigning, land reform, loneliness, free school meals, the NHS, volunteering, youth groups





KEY THEME 7: CRIME, JUSTICE & EXTREMISM

SOCIETAL ISSUES

School exclusions, access to health & social care, anti-social behaviour, violence, gangs, knives & weapons, county lines, grooming, money laundering, child trafficking, genocide, modern slavery

AUTHORITIES & THE LAW

Rules & regulations, crime, privacy, CCTV & surveillance, profiling, police, [youth] criminal justice system, prisons, role of Parliament and House of Lords in making laws, secret service, death penalty

ATTITUDES & EXTREMISM

Political divisions, polarisation, freedom of speech, no-platforming, conspiracy theories, radicalisation, extremism, terrorism, crimes against humanity



KEY THEME 8: JOBS, ECONOMY & EDUCATION

CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT

Teamwork, entrepreneurship, business, work-life balance, transnational corporations, international trade, fair trade, job markets, future of jobs

FINANCES & THE ECONOMY

Financial literacy, budgeting, investment, tax, credit cards, borrowing/debt, role of banks, Government spending, financial crises, cost of living

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Education system, sets/streaming, home schooling & learning, outdoor learning, exams, tests, assessments, coursework, projects, ambition, goals, apprenticeships, qualifications, university, unemployment

KEY THEME 9: CULTURE, MEDIA & THE ARTS

CULTURE & HERITAGE

Language, sport, e-sports, sportspeople, food & drink, museums, libraries, galleries, parks, tourism, philosophy, remembering people who shaped the UK, public holidays & festivals

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

News & TV consumption, fake news, analysing the news, advertising, brands, celebrities, cancel culture, film, music, books, art, podcasts, social media

BRITISH “INSTITUTIONS”

British customs & traditions, “Britishness”, the Royal Family, UK political parties, Church & State

