



Local Democracy 2023 presents.....Leader for the Day

A creative writing competition for Key Stage 2

Dear teachers / parents / carers / youth club leader,

The promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs is a key area of the school curriculum.

At North Kesteven District Council, we believe it is critically important that young people begin to engage with democracy from a young age; whether that is voting for their representatives on the school council or getting involved in social action campaigns. As a result, we run various events each year for European Local Democracy Week.

Local Democracy Week is one way of helping people to get involved in their community, learn about democracy and have a voice in the decisions that really matter for our everyday lives.

This year, we are introducing a new creative writing competition – Leader for the Day.

We invite schools to get involved and encourage students in Key Stage 2 to answer the question:

“How would you make your communities an even better place to live – what would you do if you were Leader of North Kesteven District Council for the day?”



The competition is open to Key Stage 2, and a winner and a runner-up will be awarded in each year group.

Prizes:

- Winners of each year group - £15 book token
- Runner up for each year group - £10 book token
- Overall winner - £25 book token



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

All winners will be invited to attend North Kesteven District Council offices located in Sleaford at 5pm on Thursday 14th December 2023, to be presented with their prize by the Chairman of Council at a meeting of the full Council.

Word limit:

There is a word limit of 300 words. Entries can be handwritten or typed.

Deadline:

Please ensure all submissions are received by 12noon on Friday 24th November 2023.

To enter:

All entries should be emailed to – Local_Democracy@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Or posted to:

*Local Democracy events
Corporate and Civic Support Team
North Kesteven District Council
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
NG34 7EF*

All entries should clearly state the following information:

- Student's name
- Student's age
- School
- Year group

Through this competition, we aim to:

✓ encourage young people to view councils as a way of shaping change in their community and to take part in local decision making

✓ promote the Council to the public

and

✓ show that in working together, we are greater than the sum of our parts

Lessons plans

Overleaf is some background information, along with discussion points and activities which can be used with children as part of a wider discussion on local democracy, in advance of them writing their entry. We hope you (and the children!) find it engaging.

Feedback

We're always looking for new ideas and ways to improve, and so we'd love to hear how you get on with these resources! If you have any questions or feedback – please contact us on:

Local_Democracy@n-kesteven.gov.uk



Background information

What do councils do?

Parish / Town Councils	North Kesteven District Council	Lincolnshire County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Public clocks • Bus shelters • Community centres • Play areas and play equipment • Grants to help local organisations <p>They also have the power to issue fines for things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter • Graffiti • Fly posting • Dog offences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate Change ○ Bin collection ○ Street cleaning ○ Environmental health and licensing – making sure places that serve food and drink are safe, and taxi drivers are trained and safe. • Anti-Social Behaviour – dealing with people who are causing a nuisance. • Leisure centres and tourism • Council housing – providing housing support for people who need it • Council tax collection – collecting money from people who live in the district, to pay for services (not just NKDC - but for the police, county council, fire too) • Economic development – helping businesses • Local planning and planning applications – making sure houses are built in the right areas, and look in-keeping with their surroundings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education – schools! • Transport - buses • Fire and public safety • Social care – supporting vulnerable families • Libraries • Trading standards – making sure businesses are behaving themselves! • Highways - street parking, traffic management, street lighting etc • Waste disposal – getting rid of rubbish, and recycling



Voting and democracy

Your vote is really important.

- Voting is our opportunity to choose the best people to make decisions for us locally (e.g. councils) and nationally (e.g. Parliament).
- The people we vote for become politicians. We can choose who becomes a politician because we live in a **democracy**.
- A democracy is when the people who live in a country get to decide who runs the country.
- The United Kingdom is a democracy because we can vote to decide who is in charge.
- In a democracy, if you don't agree with the people in charge you can vote in an election to try and change that.
- If you do agree with the people in charge, you can vote in an election to make sure they become politicians again.
- Politicians have to listen to the people that vote for them. If they don't, people might vote for somebody else next time.
- In local elections the people we vote for become Councillors.

What is a councillor?

A councillor is someone elected to the council. They are voted for by people living in the district.

Each councillor represents a District ward, which is a specific area of the district.

Discussion point:

1. Can you think of other types of democracy?
 - a. Do you have a school council?
 - b. Who is allowed to vote at that election?
 - c. Who represents you?
 - d. Do they represent the whole school, or one class or year group?
2. How old do you need to be to vote for a councillor at district elections? (18)
3. Who is your district councillor?

[Your Councillors | North Kesteven District Council \(n-kesteven.gov.uk\)](http://n-kesteven.gov.uk)

What do councillors do?

- Represent their community (their whole ward – not just those people who voted or them!)
- Investigate concerns of local people and talk to the council on their behalf.
- Read Council and committee agendas and reports to better understand issues affecting the whole of North Kesteven.
- Attend Council or committee meetings and make decisions about the district.



- Look carefully at the Council and what it is doing – check it's doing its job properly
- Some are also appointed to additional roles in the council, such as Chairman of a committee.

Our Council

North Kesteven District Council has 43 councillors, who are each elected every four years.

Following the elections on 4 May 2023, 43 Councillors were elected and the following political groups were formed at the council:

- North Kesteven Conservative – 25
- Lincolnshire Independents - 10
- Group of unaligned Members – 4
- Labour – 2
- Independent (unaligned to any group) – 2

**accurate at 26.09.23*

Because they have the biggest numbers, North Kesteven District Council is controlled by the Conservative Political Group.

Discussion point:

- If you could create a new political party – what would you call it, and what would you aim to do?
- Can you design your own political party logo?

NKDC Corporate Priorities

Our five corporate priorities are:

1. Our Communities

- To enhance the health, wellbeing, safety and resilience of all our communities; inspiring and supporting a sustainable and flourishing future

2. Our Council

- To be a high performing, value-for-money Council that is agile, resilient and actively embraces the challenges and opportunities of the future

3. Our Economy

- To support local economic growth and resilience, and build on opportunities from the 'green economy'



4. Our Homes

- Through the Local Plan, deliver sustainable housing growth and energy-efficient development to meet the current and emerging needs of all our communities

5. Our Environment

- To meet the challenge of climate change; ensuring integration and delivery of the Climate Action Plan across all NK Plan priorities

Discussion point: Is the Council focused on the right things? Perhaps students think we should have different priorities?

Who is the Leader and what do they do?



Councillor Richard Wright is the Leader of North Kesteven District Council. He was voted Leader by full Council (all the other councillors). He is the most senior member of the Council.

The Leader of the Council is elected by Full Council for 4 years. The Leader of the Council can then choose which other councillor they want as Deputy Leader and who else they want on the Executive Board with them. The Executive Board is a committee, and takes most of the decisions at North Kesteven District Council. The Leader chairs the

Executive Board meetings.

The Leader's main roles and responsibilities include:

- Leading the council in deciding its vision, values and objectives – what do we want to achieve, and how?
- Communicating this vision – making sure everyone knows what the Council is aiming to achieve.
- Encouraging councillors and officers to achieve these goals.
- Taking a lead in setting the council's budget – how much money do we have? What do we spend it on?
- Taking a lead in developing the council's most important documents (policies and strategies) which shape the way we do things, and making sure council services are delivered appropriately.
- Representing the Council both within and outside the Council with a wide range of relevant contacts - promoting the Council's goals and ambitions. For example with Central Government, other councils, businesses and organisations
- Building good working relationships with external partners to create new opportunities.
- Ensuring the long term financial, business and economic stability of the Council.
- Encouraging the best behaviour of councillors
- Working with the media



Some examples of things the Leader and the Executive can change:

- How much money we spend
- Buy or sell buildings
- Charging fees for things like car parks
- New initiatives to help prevent climate change
 - No cars allowed in town centres?
 - More electric charging points?
 - More recycling bins?
 - More solar panels / wind farms?
- Council houses
 - build new ones?
 - change existing ones?
 - Change something about them – Make them all have orange doors??
- Leisure facilities
 - For example -Sleaford Leisure Centre, OneNK, Whisby Nature Park
 - build new ones?
 - change existing ones?
 - Create something completely new?
- Events to attract visitors into the district
- New ideas to stop anti-social behaviour

Suggested activity:

Vote with your feet!

1. Put up three signs on different walls of your classroom or school hall – For; against and abstain
2. Make a statement and ask students to vote - walk and stand near the sign they agree with.
3. Encourage debate – ask them why they voted that way
4. Count the votes!

Example statements could be:


- *Homework should be abolished*
- *Compulsory TV from 6-7pm for all children*
- *Cars should be banned*
- *School uniform must be worn on weekends*
- *Free chocolate for all children over 10 years old.*

Be as creative as you like and get a debate going!



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Discussion point and writing competition question:



**How would you make your
communities an even better place to
live – what would you do if you were
Leader of North Kesteven District
Council for the day?**