



VOCABULARY

Parliament Education: Student Resource

Parliament is a space that uses words you may not be familiar with. To help support your learning about Parliament and to prepare you for your visit, here are some key words.

backbench MP - a member of Parliament (MP) in Government that is not a minister.

bill - a draft of a proposed law presented to Parliament for discussion.

Cabinet - the committee of senior ministers responsible for government policy also known as the Executive.

Clerk of the House - the main advisor to the Speaker and the House on specialist parliamentary procedure.

coalition - a temporary alliance between political parties to form a Government.

debate - To formally discuss a bill or issue, with MPs presenting different views before a decision is made.

election - a formal and organised choice by vote of a person for a political office.

electorate - the people in an area of New Zealand who are entitled to vote.

Executive - the branch of government responsible for putting laws into effect.

Government - the group of people that have a majority and propose most of the new laws.

hold to account - making someone accept responsibility and provide explanations for actions and decisions.

Member of Parliament - a person elected to the national legislative body.

Minister - An MP in charge of policy decisions for a specific area, like health or education.

monarch / sovereign - the head of state such as a King or Queen.

Opposition - the parliamentary party / parties not in government. Their job is to hold the government to account.

Parliament - a group of elected representatives who make laws.

party - a group that takes part in elections and attempts to form / take part in a government.

policy - An idea or plan of action put forward by a political party or government to address an issue or achieve a goal.

press - group of journalists who cover the news.

represent - to act or speak for someone in an official capacity, such as an elected Member of Parliament.

scrutiny - critical observation or examination.

Sitting Day - when members of Parliament assemble in the House to discuss and decide parliamentary business.

Standing Orders - the rules of procedure for the House and its committees.

taxes - a compulsory contribution to state revenue set by the government on income, goods, services and transactions.

The House - The elected members of Parliament who represent New Zealanders and make the country's laws.

The Speaker - the impartial chair of the House elected by fellow members of Parliament.

vote - a formal indication / expression of choice.

Whip - an MP of a political party appointed to maintain discipline, attendance and cast votes for members.