

Introduction to Elections

KEY:

A: Aine

S: Stuart

M: Male Speaker

F: Female Speaker

A: Hi, I'm Aine.

S: Hi, I'm Stuart.

A: Did you know that we elect people to represent us on four different areas of Government? The Council, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the UK Parliament and the European Parliament.

S: Voting gives you your chance to have your say on who is going to represent you and who is going to make decisions on your behalf.

A: Remember, to vote in the elections in Northern Ireland, you have to be: on the Electoral Register; aged 18 or over; a UK or Irish citizen; an EU or Commonwealth citizen; not in a category barred from voting; and, you must present a valid form of Photo ID when you arrive at the polling station.

S: Voting is one of the simplest ways to participate in our democracy.

A: Let's go find out if people vote, and why.

M: Basically, the old saying is, "You don't vote, you can't yap."

M: I vote in every election, I vote in Council. I think they're all important in different ways.

F: Women have earned the right for us to vote and I don't think we should waste it.

M: It's your democratic right, that was won by other people before you. You have to exercise your right so that you will get people who will represent your views and interests.

M: Only you can make a difference by voting. If you're not happy about something, and you don't vote for it, then you've no reason to be unhappy because you didn't do anything.

S: The people who we elect make important decisions on our behalf. Decisions about our leisure facilities, what we learn at school, how much tax we pay and even on our mobile phone charges.

A: In Northern Ireland, even though you cannot vote until you're 18, you can register to vote from the age of 17.

S: In Northern Ireland, it's your decision whether or not to vote. If you don't vote, you're letting people that you might not agree with have a say on decisions that affect you.

A: Remember, by voting in the elections, you're having a say on who makes decisions for you.