

# Two-year-olds to be taught about democracy and voting

Scheme in memory of Sir David Amess will encourage children aged two to six to learn about equality



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Children as young as two will be taught about the importance of democracy under a project set up in memory of [Sir David Amess](#), the murdered Tory MP.

[Amanda Frolich](#), a children's entertainer known as [Action Amanda](#), will lead the scheme, which will encourage youngsters to discuss ideas and take votes to help them learn about fairness and responsibility from the earliest possible age.

Ms Frolich has previously been hired by the likes of Boris and Carrie Johnson, David and Victoria Beckham, and Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie to organise parties for their children.

Four schools will initially take part in the experiment, with children ranging ages from two to six taking part. But organisers hope the scheme will rapidly take off, with the potential for some children to be invited to Parliament to debate with each other in future.

More than 5,000 children aged seven to 11 have already taken part in livestreamed debates with MPs as part of the Sir David Amess UK Children's Parliament, which was launched after he was [stabbed to death at a constituency surgery](#) in 2021.



Amanda Frolich performed at the third birthday party of Boris Johnson's son Wilfred Credit: Amanda Frolich

Ahead of the fifth anniversary of his death next year, two state schools and two private schools are taking part in the democracy project involving children aged six and under.

They will be taught about democracy through play, storytelling, voting exercises and group decision-making, designed to help children understand the concepts of fairness, leadership and responsibility in a way appropriate for their age.

Ms Frolich, 55, said: “If our democracy is to flourish, children must know from the start that their voices matter. A three-year-old can understand fairness and belonging - and those seeds grow into responsible citizens for life.”

Earlier this year, she shared photographs of Boris and Carrie Johnson wearing dinosaur costumes at a party for their son Wilf’s fifth birthday, having previously been described as “amazing” by Mrs Johnson following a previous birthday party she organised.

Her other clients include Peter Andre, Simon Cowell and Made in Chelsea’s Millie Mackintosh, and she also runs children’s clubs across London.

Sir David believed that democracy should be taught to children from the youngest age possible, and after his murder the children’s parliament was set up with his eldest daughter Katie Amess and the former Southend West MP Anna Firth as its patrons.

### **‘Kindness is Sir David’s legacy’**

Craig Jones, chairman of the School Aged Childcare Association and an advocate of the children’s parliament, said: “By embedding democratic habits, we give children a framework to understand fairness, collaboration and belonging, long before they face the more divisive conversations of adult politics.

“The legacy of Sir David Amess is about participation, kindness, and respect for institutions. That begins from an early age.”

Four schools will take part in the pilot: Chantler’s Primary School in Bury, Manchester, where the England footballer Gary Neville was once a pupil; Edward Beetham CofE Primary School in Greenford, Surrey, and the independent schools Saint Pierre School in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Heathcote Preparatory School and Nursery in Danbury, Essex.

Separately, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the House of Commons, is working with former Cabinet minister Sir David Davis MP and the community activist Baroness Uddin to mark the fifth anniversary of Sir David Amess’s death next year to enable seven to 11-year-olds to take over the Commons chamber for a day of debating.

In the next few weeks, Parliament will vote on a motion to give the project a £90,000 Government grant to cover the costs of security and the Parliamentary Broadcasting Unit on the day in question.