



The Big Legal Lesson



February 2025

What's the law got to do with me?

Taster Activity
Ages 11-18



Supported by



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Taster Activity

Age Range: KS3, 4 and post-16

Introduction: Thank you for taking part in The Big Legal Lesson 2025. You are joining a network of thousands of teachers and legal professionals across England and Wales who are committed to developing young people's knowledge of the rule of law and their legal rights.

Thank you to international law firm Mishcon de Reya for sponsoring The Big Legal Lesson again in 2025. Their funding allows us to offer all resources and support to participating schools for free.

Also, thank you to our education partners The Law Society for their continued support in helping us deliver legal education to young people across the UK.

Suggested timing: This short "taster activity" is designed to be run over a 15-30-minute session. The main focus of the activity is on a class discussion. Two optional Big Legal Lesson Big Challenges have been included.

If you have more time available and would like to run additional activities, please refer to the Big Legal Lesson classroom notes packs which contain a more detailed lesson plan.

Objectives:

By the end of this activity students will be able to explain how the law impacts their day-to-day lives.

Activity:

- 1) Introduce the activity using **slides 2-3**.
- 2) Read about Marley's day on **slides 4-8**.
- 3) Ask pupils to discuss with a partner all the ways they think Marley's day has been affected by the law.
- 4) Take in some feedback using the information provided on the following pages to support your discussions.

The Big Legal Lesson Big Challenges:

Slide 9 - Challenges students to use what they have learnt to complete **worksheet 1**.

Slide 10 - Challenges students to draw a time-line of their day. Students should label their time-line to show all the different points they think they come into contact with the law.



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Teacher information sheet:

Marley's day	The law
<p>It's Monday morning, Marley gets woken by their alarm and heads downstairs, pours a bowl of chocolate cereal and finishes off their history homework.</p>	<p>The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021 places restrictions on certain businesses relating to the price promotion and placement of certain foods and drinks that are high in fat, salt or sugar. These restrictions apply to certain foods and drinks both in shops and online.</p> <p>There are also other laws which say how much tax needs to be paid on soft drinks; for example, if they have more than 5g of sugar per 100ml, this makes them more expensive.</p> <p>In years gone by the government have set guidelines about how much homework schools should be setting but these have never been made into law. In 2012, the government scrapped these guidelines saying that headteachers should set their own policies.</p>
<p>At 8:00am Marley heads out and walks to the bus stop, then catches the bus to school.</p>	<p>The bus driver is subject to a number of laws when driving. Most of these are covered by the Road Traffic Act 1988. This act sets the minimum age requirements to get a driving licence. It also sets out many conditions for drivers for example, drivers must be insured, their vehicle must not be in a dangerous condition, they must obey traffic signs and speed limits.</p> <p>Bus drivers who drive school buses are required to have completed an enhanced DBS check. Schools cannot hire drivers who are included in the children's barred list, for example, because they have previously been convicted of certain offences (e.g. supplying drugs).</p>
<p>The school day starts with tutor time and then Marley heads off for maths followed by PE.</p>	<p>The Education Act will affect Marley's education. Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education. The legal age you can leave school differs across nations but is generally at some point after you turn 16. In England you must stay in some form of education or training until you are 18 (or have reached a level 3 qualification). Most schools are required to follow the National Curriculum which sets out the key learning for each subject.</p> <p>Under the Equality Act, schools are under a duty not to discriminate against a pupil on the grounds of certain protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation).</p> <p>The School Premises (England) regulations 2012 requires that schools have suitable outdoor space to allow students to play outside and do physical education outside.</p>
<p>After PE it's break time followed by science, then lunch.</p>	<p>A regulation was passed in 2012 which states that a school must have a suitable outdoor space to play outside. In 2019, an all-party parliamentary group on fit and healthy childhood recommended that school children should have a legal right to 75 minutes of break time in the school day.</p> <p>Schools have a number of legal duties to provide healthy and nutritious food and drink. Schools should also make reasonable adjustments for pupils with particular requirements, for example to reflect medical, dietary and cultural needs.</p>



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Teacher information sheet:

Marley's day	The law
<p>After school Marley attends an event organised by the careers office. There are lots of different people at the event including someone from a local college, someone from a local university and a range of different employers.</p>	<p>The Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022 makes it a legal requirement that all schools and academies provide independent careers guidance for pupils in school in Years 7 to 13.</p>
<p>Marley can't stay long at the careers event as they have to get to their part-time job. Marley works in a local café for a couple of hours after school on a Monday and all day on a Saturday.</p>	<p>There are lots of laws involved here. The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 protects children from (i) working in conditions which may be harmful to their safety, health or development, (ii) being ill-treated within the workplace and (iii) working long hours.</p> <p>Legally, young people can only start full-time work after the end of the academic year in which they've reached the minimum school leaving age - they can then work up to a maximum of 40 hours a week. The youngest age you can work part-time is 13, except children involved in areas like acting and modelling.</p> <p>Marley will have certain rights under employment law. They are entitled to their salary as stated in their employment contract, they may have rights to daily and weekly rest breaks. Under law, the employer would also need to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of its employees.</p> <p>The café itself will also be subject to a number of laws around food safety such as those set out in the Food Safety Act. There are also laws under the Hazardous Health regulations which applies to the cleaning of tables and washing dishes.</p>
<p>Marley's step-dad collects them after work. Once Marley gets home, they spend some time browsing social media, then grab a quick dinner before heading to bed.</p>	<p>The Online Safety Act 2023 has now received Royal Assent. It makes social media companies more responsible for users' safety; for example, they will have to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Remove illegal content and prevent users from being exposed to such material;■ Protect children from harmful content;■ Enforce age limits and age-checking measures. <p>Under the Human Rights Act, Marley has the right to privacy. This means Marley's personal data is protected as part of their private life and cannot be collected, used or disclosed without justification. Under GDPR laws personal data that social media companies have collected in relation to Marley must be processed fairly and lawfully.</p> <p>There are many other laws that protect people from harmful communications online. For example, under the Communications Act 2003 people are prohibited from writing "menacing electronic communication". Sending grossly offensive comments is an offence under both the Communications Act and the Malicious Communications Act. If people write something that is untrue or unjustified, which is damaging to a person's reputation they may be guilty of libel under the Defamation Act.</p>



Match the part of Marley's day to the law(s).

It's Monday morning; Marley gets woken by their alarm and heads downstairs, pours a bowl of chocolate cereal and finishes off their history homework.

At 8:00am Marley heads out and walks to the bus stop, then catches the bus to school.

The school day starts with tutor time and then Marley heads off for maths followed by PE.

After PE it's break time followed by science, then lunch.

After school Marley attends an event organised by the careers office. There are lots of different people at the event including someone from a local college, someone from a local university and a range of different employers.

Marley can't stay long at the careers event as they have to get to their part-time job. Marley works in a local café for a couple of hours after school on a Monday and all day on a Saturday.

Marley's step-dad collects them after work. Once Marley gets home, they spend some time browsing social media, then grab a quick dinner before heading to bed.

Children and Young Persons Act

Equality Act

School premises regulations

Human Rights Act

Defamation Act

Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021

Online Safety Bill

Education Act

Food Safety Act

Road Traffic Act

Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act

Health and Safety at Work Act

Communications Act

Data Protection Act