What is the Law?

Objective:

To facilitate the students in developing their own understanding of what the law is.

Aims:

- To allow each student participate in forming a personal definition of the law

- To enable students to apply their theoretical knowledge of the law to everyday situations

Resources:

- Let's look at the law video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OZgapjoUw4 *(3 minutes)*

- Group brainstorming 'bubble sheets' - *Student Handout: What is the Law?*

- Definition of the law - *Teacher's Notes: 1 Definition, 2. Criminal Law, 3. Civil Law*

- Examples of situations illustrating the difference between civil and criminal law, with quiz & roleplay.

- Student resource page at: https://courts.ie/what-law

Key questions:

- Can you define what the law is?

- Can you give examples of the law in action?

- Which words in your definition are important and why?

- What are the main differences between a civil and a criminal case?

Duration: **35 minutes**

Introduction: (5 minutes)

Development: (20 minutes)

- Class watch *'Let's look at the Law'* video - Lesson 4

- Teacher divides class into discussion groups and distributes bubble sheets - *Student Handout: 1. What is the Law?*

- Findings are discussed group by group. Spokesperson speaks for own group

- In pairs or groups students get to practice the difference between civil and criminal law using role play situations provided.

Class agrees their own broad definition of what the law is. It is important that they touch on some key words such as rules, conduct/behaviour, society/community and recognise the need for an authority or government to create and enforce laws.

Closure: (10 minutes)

Teacher will record an agreed definition of law, taking into account the input of the various students. (Teacher may choose to contrast this with the supplied definition - see *Teacher's Notes: 1. Definition.*).. Class can also take quiz from student resource page (available online or as a download).