**Lesson Plan: Law for Little 'Uns**

**Key Stage:** KS2 (Years 3–6)
**Subject Links:** PSHE, English, Citizenship, Drama
**Length:** 60 minutes
**Theme:** Introduction to Law and Legal Careers

**Learning objectives**
By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:

* Understand what laws are and why we have them
* Recognise the roles of people who work in law (e.g. judges, solicitors, police, parliament)
* Take part in a mock debate or ‘mini trial’
* Reflect on fairness, rules, and justice in everyday life

**Resources needed**

* Scenario cards (see below)
* Role badges (Judge, Lawyer, Police Officer, Witness, Jury, etc.)
* A simple gavel or ‘hammer’ for the Judge (optional)
* A space to act out a mini courtroom (tables or chairs arranged accordingly)

**Starter (10 mins)** **Class discussion:**
Ask pupils:

* What are *rules*? What are *laws*? Are they the same?
* Why do we have laws? What would happen if we didn’t?

**Quick activity:**
List some examples of laws they already know (e.g. speed limits, no stealing, school rules). Write them on the board.

**Main activity (30–35 mins)**

**Part 1: Meet the law (10 mins)**
Introduce key roles using these simple explanations:

* **Judge**
The judge is in charge of the courtroom. They make sure everyone follows the rules, listens carefully, and speaks politely. At the end, the judge helps decide what happens, especially if someone has broken the law.
* **Solicitor**
A solicitor gives people advice when they have a problem with the law. They help people understand what to do and often work with barristers in court. They don’t usually speak in court but help get everything ready.
* **Barrister**
A barrister speaks in court for someone. They explain that person’s side of the story and ask questions. They work with solicitors and help judges and juries understand the case.
* **Police Officer**
Police officers help keep people safe and make sure laws are followed. They find out what’s happened when there’s a problem and sometimes arrest people who have broken the law.
* **Jury Member**
The jury is a group of people who listen to the case in court. They decide if someone has broken the law by looking at all the evidence. They must be fair and honest.
* **Witness**
A witness is someone who saw or heard what happened. They tell the court what they know. They must always tell the truth.
* **Defendant**
The defendant is the person who has been accused of doing something wrong. They explain their side of the story and try to show they didn’t break the law.
* **Clerk (Court Clerk)**
The clerk helps the judge by keeping track of what’s said in court. They read out important information and make sure everything is organised. They’re like the court’s helper.

Use visuals if possible (photos or simple illustrations).

**Part 2: Mini courtroom role play (20–25 mins)**
Split the class into groups. Each group receives a scenario card. Assign roles. Let them prepare a short performance or discussion based on the scenario.

**Scenario card examples**

1. *Someone has been accused of stealing biscuits from the staffroom. They say they were hungry and didn’t know it was wrong.*
2. *Two children both say the same toy is theirs. A teacher must decide who had it first.*
3. *Someone was caught drawing on a wall. They say it was art, not vandalism.*

Each group acts out the scene. Encourage them to be fair, respectful, and consider both sides. The "judge" or jury can then decide on a fair outcome.

**Plenary (10–15 mins)** **discussion questions:**

* Was it hard to decide what was fair?
* Do you think being a judge or lawyer would be easy?
* What skills do people in law need? (Listening, problem solving, confidence, etc.)

**Link to careers:** Explain that people working in law help keep things fair and protect rights. You might mention:

* Solicitor
* Barrister
* Legal Secretary
* Court Clerk
* Police Officer
* Paralegal

**Extension / homework idea**
Ask pupils to create a "Law Job Fact File" on a role they learned about today. Include:

* Job title
* What they do
* Skills they need
* Where they might work

**Printable Resources**

**Role badges /sticker:**

* Judge
* Solicitor
* Barrister
* Police Officer
* Jury Member
* Witness
* Defendant
* Clerk

**Scenario cards (print & cut – or PowerPoint ):**

1. *Someone took biscuits from the staffroom without asking. They say they were hungry and thought it was OK.*
2. *Two children both claim the same toy belongs to them. They both have a story. Who is right?*
3. *A child drew a big picture on the school wall. They say it's art. Others say it's graffiti. What should happen?*
4. *Someone found a phone on the playground and took it home. Was that the right thing to do?*
5. *During lunch, one pupil pushed another in the dinner queue. They say it was an accident. The other pupil disagrees.*