



Bury & Rochdale MiC: **Magistrates in the Community.**

A short presentation to BGA :
School Governors for Bury Schools.

Who are Magistrates in the Community?

- Group of Magistrates/JPs, doing presentations to **any Community Group** who want us!
- Many of us are still **active JPs**, whilst others have **recently retired** from the Bench.
- Currently, we are all **Bury & Rochdale JPs**, although, officially, we now sit on the Greater Manchester Bench.
- As with all JPs, we come from all walks of life, with wide & varied experiences of **OUR** community.
- We are all **DBS checked** and most are members of the **Magistrates Association**.
- There is **NO CHARGE** for our visits!

What is our aim?

- Explain the need for **Laws in Society – Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities**.
- Explain & clarify the **role of Magistrates**, within the **Judicial System** of the U.K - & how that evolved.
- **Describe & explain** the work we do in different courts: **Adult Criminal; Youth; Family; Crown Court appeals**. We sign & approve **Arrest & Search Warrants** and deal with some **Civil** matters.
- Explain & de-mystify the **legal process**.
- We can **tailor presentations** to suit the needs of those wishing to use our services.
- We try to help children to think about their behaviour &, when faced with a **moral dilemma**, choose to do the right thing & keep to the right side of the law.

What can we do for you?

- Meet with school staff to devise the most suitable presentation for **YOUR** needs;
- Work with **class-sized** or **whole year groups**, across **all Key Stages**;
- Deliver sessions **ourselves** / support your school staff;
- Assist in delivery of **PHSE / Citizenship** – our work ticks several boxes there, across all Key Stages;
- Assist schools / colleges that offer **Law** at GCSE & A Level, & also, **Citizenship**.
- Provide accurate/up-to-date information on legal aspects of current social issues, eg: Facebook, Abuse, Drugs/Alcohol, Antisocial Behaviour, Exploitation etc.

How do we work?

- Usually we come as a **double act** – at least, depending on group size and type of presentation;
- **Power Point** presentations;
- **Q & A** sessions or **Quizzes**;
- Present **moral dilemma situations** – decide what is Right/Wrong?
- **Mock Trials** – with pupils as participants;
- **Video** presentations of **Sentencing & Bail** applications (filmed at our courthouse);
- **Revision** sessions / **discussions** for exam groups.

What do we need from you?

- To **raise our profile** with the Schools, on whose Governing bodies you sit;
- Very little – definitely **zero payment** as we are all JPs, & therefore **volunteers** (several of us taught for years!);
- Some time for **brief chat** about your needs & how we can help – a **phone call** will do;
- **Reasonable notice** before a visit, so we can circulate details on our **Matrix** and recruit JP volunteers;
- Mock trials might need a little more input from school – print scripts, prep pupils, arrange room etc.
- **Power supply** for laptop, if needed;
- **Teacher support** in the room;
- A brew is lovely, if there is time!

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And there's more - - -

- Forgive these afterthoughts but:
 1. Could consider a joint event with a neighbouring or partner school/s;
 2. We have a working relationship with National Probation Service (on hold, at present due to their reorganisation) but might be able to resurrect some of that work, which focussed on Community Penalties vs Custody;
 3. The “Prison, me? No way!” group, which we work with in Rochdale, does work with many schools but there is a fee involved (Ref: Ribble Drive CPS, in Whitefield);
 4. “Commando Joe’s”, also work in schools, that have ‘challenges’. They work, on site, throughout the year on respect, (self) discipline, making the right choices etc. (Ref: Broad Oak Sports’ College & Primary, next door)