



Public Services: How They Help Our Communities

KS3 CITIZENSHIP

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are Public Services?

Public services are essential facilities and support provided by the government to help everyone in society. They're paid for by **taxes** — money that people and businesses give to the government. Unlike private services that you pay for directly (like a cinema or restaurant), public services are available to everyone, rich or poor, because they're so important for our society to function.

Think of it like a school library: everyone gets to use it for free because education helps the whole community, not just wealthy families.

The Main Public Services

The NHS (National Health Service) provides free healthcare to everyone in the UK. This includes doctors, hospitals, and emergency care when you're ill or injured. Without it, only rich people could afford treatment.

Police services keep us safe by catching criminals and preventing crime. **Fire services** respond to emergencies and save lives. **Education** is provided through state schools so every child can learn, regardless of their family's income. **Social services** help vulnerable people like children in danger or elderly people who need care.

Local councils manage rubbish collection, street lighting, libraries, and public transport. **The military** protects our country from threats.

Think of it like a team sport: everyone contributes (pays taxes), and everyone benefits from the whole team working together.

Why Do We Need Public Services?

Public services ensure **fairness** and **equality**. They guarantee that everyone gets help in emergencies, education, and healthcare — not just people who can afford to pay. Without them, poor families couldn't get medical treatment or send their children

to school. Public services also create jobs, from doctors and teachers to firefighters and social workers.

Imagine a country where only rich people could visit doctors or go to school — that would be unfair and dangerous. Public services exist to make sure all members of society have access to what they need to live healthy, safe, and educated lives.

How Are Public Services Paid For?

When adults work, a percentage of their salary goes to the government as tax. Businesses also pay taxes. This money goes into a national fund that pays for doctors, teachers, police officers, and all the other workers who provide public services. It's a shared responsibility: everyone contributes a little so that everyone benefits.