



This House would punish parents for the crimes committed by their children

Questions to consider

- Why do children commit crimes?
- Can parents stop their children from committing crimes?
- Would parents act differently if they knew they were responsible for their children's behaviour?
- Would this reduce youth crime? Would other things work better?
- How would this affect family relationships?
- When one child behaves badly, do their siblings always behave the same?
- Are there factors that might make it harder for some parents to control their children than others?

Vocabulary

Criminal
Law
Justice
Blame
Responsibility
Discipline
Punishment
Police
Guilt
Behaviour
Values
Peer Pressure

Definition

It's probably not fair to say parents should be responsible for their grown-up children's crimes! Would an age like 16 or 18 be reasonable for this debate? Would you fine the parents or send them to prison?

Age of criminal responsibility

The criminal age of responsibility in the UK is 10. This means that children under 10 can't be arrested or charged with a crime. Children between 10 and 17 are not treated like adults, they are sentenced by youth courts and sent to special secure centres for young people, not adult prisons.

Values



Where do children learn their values and behaviours? At home? At School? From their friends? Online?



Responsibility



If you graffitied a wall, would your parent be to blame?

Fact

Parents can be already be fined or prosecuted if their children are always absent from school.

Crimes

- Graffiti
- Shoplifting
- Mugging
- Assault
- Vandalism
- Drug dealing
- Possession of a weapon
- Hacking