

Don't force me

Year: Y6

Subjects and Issues

◆ Diversity ◆ Relationships Education (formerly SRE or RSE) ◆ LGBT ◆ Relationships ◆ Law ◆ Forced Marriage ◆ Arranged Marriage ◆ Civil Partnerships ◆ Marriage

Please note: there is an option in this lesson plan to watch a film produced by Childline, called Layla's Arranged Marriage. You will find this by searching for the film's title - alternatively you can search for it on the Childline website. Please check the film before teaching the lesson.

Introduction

When two people love and care for each other and are in a stable relationship, they might want to make a public demonstration of this.

Ask:

- How might they choose to do this? [Get married/enter in to a civil partnership.]
- Why might people choose to do this, rather than just living together? [Ensure that mention is made that some marry for religious reasons.]
- Who can get married/enter in to a civil partnership? [Hetrosexual couple and same-sex couples can marry or have a civil partnership.]
- Does everyone in a loving and committed relationship want to get married or have a civil partnership? [No]
- In this case, what can they do instead? [Live together.]
- How old does someone have to be before they can get married in the UK? [16 with parental consent, 18 without parental consent but in Scotland it's 16 - with or without parental consent.]

Some people have their marriage arranged by their parents . This is a custom in some cultures. If a marriage is arranged, the 2 people involved *do have a choice* and they are not forced to marry if they don't want to.

Activity 1 – Mix and Match

Working individually or in pairs, using the *Mix and Match* Activity sheet, the children have to match each partnership term with its correct definition.

Check children's answers to correct any misunderstanding.

Activity 2 – Forced Marriage

It is against the law in this country for someone to be forced to marry.

Ask: why might some parents want to do this to their children? (Point out that this mainly happens to girls).

The following reasons are advice given by the charity **Childline**:

- They think it is an important part of their religion or culture.
- They are concerned about the family's reputation or honour.
- They marry their children off for money.
- They think that their children might be gay or lesbian
- They feel pressured by their community.

None of these reasons are OK. Nobody has the right to force their child into marriage.

Childline resource

Childline have produced a short film about this issue called *Layla's Arranged Marriage*. You can watch this film about Layla and what happened to her by searching online for the film's title (Layla's Arranged Marriage).

If you choose to watch the film, afterwards, discuss how it made the children feel when they were watching it.

Finally, if time allows, or as an extension to this lesson, children work in groups to do some research about Forced Marriage, using the Childline website to get facts about this. They can present their findings to the class.

Plenary

Review the key facts about Forced Marriage with the class, including why it is illegal in this country and emphasising that nobody should be forced into a marriage - and that they should seek help if this is happening to them.

Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- Describe ways in which people show their commitment to each other;
- Know the ages at which a person can marry, depending on whether their parents agree;
- Understand that everyone has the right to be free to choose who and whether to marry.