

Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households

LOVE MATTERS

Report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

Resources for Primary Schools and Youth Groups



‘Love Matters’: the story

The report of the Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households, *‘Love Matters,’*¹ tells a story of hope, opportunity and love, guided by Christian theology and learning from Scripture and tradition. *‘Love Matters’* explores the challenges facing families and households today and encourages us to:

- Value families of all shapes and sizes.
- Ensure that everyone is able to develop loving and caring relationships and manage conflict well.
- Empower children and young people, developing their relational skills and knowledge, recognising their value and agency, and protecting them from harm.
- Build a kinder, fairer, more forgiving society, removing discrimination, division and deep inequality for the sake of every family and household.

‘Love Matters’ re-imagines our multicultural society as:

- Kind, fair and forgiving, in which every individual, every household and every family is able and supported to flourish.
- Valuing everyone for who they are, celebrating the rich diversity in our society.
- Seeking the common good and rejecting discrimination and inequality

***‘Love Matters’* emphasises that families matter, relationships matter and love matters.**

‘Love Matters’ Resources for Children and Young People

The resources for children and young people have been designed and developed by children and young people from King’s Group Academies schools in Gosport and Fareham. They offer an opportunity for children and young people to explore the key messages of *‘Love Matters’* in schools and youth groups.

Two YouTube videos have been designed: one for children of primary school age; and one for children and young people of secondary school age. Each video is accompanied by a Lesson Plan suggesting activities which can be undertaken along with watching the video.

¹ The full report, *‘Love Matters’, the Summary report* and the supporting theology and practice papers can be found at churchofengland.org/families-and-households

Lesson Plan Objectives

Each lesson plan and video aims to:

- Bring to the awareness of the young people the messages included in '*Love Matters*'
- Understand the idea that the concept of family needs to be broad and recognise that families come in all shapes and sizes.
- Explore how our society can be kinder and more inclusive.
- Learn that the Church of England wants the voice of children and young people to be heard more often by the government and encourage them to think how they can make their voices heard.

Activities for Use with the Video for Primary-Age Children

1. Starter activity before playing the video

The class/assembly is asked to say what they think of when they hear each of the following words. Can they think of an example of what the word means?

- a. Love
- b. Family
- c. Society
- d. Home
- e. Household
- f. Poverty
- g. Inequality
- h. Kindness
- i. Fairness
- j. Forgiveness

2. Activities as the video is shown

1. Play the video, and possibly pause it at the end of the animation, which is at 3.45 minutes.

2. In pairs: with the person sitting next or near to you, tell each other what you are thinking about having seen the video to this point.

3. Together, each pair, decide on what you think would be a good title for the video.

4. Ask a few pairs to share the titles they thought of and why

5. Resume playing the video to its conclusion

6. Creating a workbook: exploring scenarios

As a result of watching the video and talking about it, the children are invited to create a classroom resource where imagined scenarios are explored. The idea is that the children devise and describe scenarios, and these are followed with a choice of response.

For example:

Scenario 1: Your friend gets hurt by someone else being nasty. What do you do?

- a) Go and get a responsible adult*
- b) Try to stop your friend being hurt*
- c) Stay around to make sure your friend is ok*
- d) Write your own answer*

The important thing is to allow for a free choice of answer and that is why one of the multiple choices of response is for the children to be able to write an alternative answer.

The ethical consideration in taking this approach is that it could engage young people in exploring thoughts and feelings that they may need support with. Whilst this is not a bad thing to do, it is a good thing to consider carefully how to provide that support.

The two following scenarios were ones imagined and provided by primary aged children who created the videos:

Scenario 2: Your parents/carers argue in front of you. What do you do?

- a) Join in the argument*
- b) Walk away like nothing has happen as it is their problem not yours*
- c) Talk to see if there's anything you can do*
- d) Write your own answer*

Scenario 3: A close relative dies. What do you do?

- a) Try to be allowed to go to the funeral*
- b) Don't try to go because you are too sad*
- c) Don't go and have a party instead to celebrate the person's life*
- d) Write your answer*

7. Creating a word search

This lesson plan contains a list of words starting with each letter of the alphabet. This list was compiled by the authors of the Love Matters report as representative of significant words within the report.

The children are given the list and tasked to create a word search. These could be attached to the workbooks produced in the activity above.

This activity encourages engagement with the words in a fun way.

Alphabet for Building Loving Relationships

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| A Acceptance | N Nurturing |
| B Belonging | O Openness |
| C Commitment | P Patience |
| D Disagreeing well | Q Quietude |
| E Empathy | R Respectful |
| F Forgiveness | S Stable, Safe, Secure, Satisfying, Sociable, Sacrificial |
| G Generosity | T Trusting |
| H Honesty | U Understanding |
| I Integrity | V Valuing |
| J Joyfulness | W Warmth |
| K Kindness | X Extraordinary gentleness |
| L LOVE | Y Yielding |
| M Mutuality | Z Zeal |