

Archbishops' Commission on Families & Households

LOVE MATTERS

Report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

Resources for Secondary Schools and Youth Groups



‘Love Matters’: the story

*‘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.**

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 inclusive.
- Explore how our society can be kinder.
- 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 along with the video for secondary-age children and young people

1. Starter activity before showing the video

Individually, young people write down what each of the following ten words means to them - how would they define each word?

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

2. Extension starter activities

1. **In pairs or small groups**, choose three of the words above and create a series of freeze frames to show the connections between them
2. **Presentations**: some of the freeze-frame series are presented to the class (or in an Assembly they are prepared beforehand), AND comments are encouraged by the audience. The questions to the audience could be:

- What sense did you make of what the group presented?
- What did it make you think about?

3. Activities as the video is shown

**1. Show the first part of the video (to the point where animation finishes)
Part 2 starts at 4.02 minutes**

2. Class/Assembly discussion

Opening questions:

- What came to mind as you watched the video?
- What did it make you think about?

3. Show the next part of the video to Part 3, which starts at 5.05 minutes

4. In pairs, create a storyboard for making a short film that explores the matters raised in the video so far. Entitle it “Reimagining the Future”.

- What would a fairer, kinder, more forgiving society look like?
- How could what you imagine become a reality?

5. Show the last section of the video.

6. Individually, each young person writes a letter to either the girl who recited her poem or to the boys who recited the poem about pornography. Your letter could take the form of a poem.

7. Final Activity: Young people are asked to add words to the list given at the start of the lesson.

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.

It may be that such an acrostic frame (with just the letters of the alphabet) is suggested, or provided, to the students for them to populate in pairs or small groups.

Alphabet for Building Loving Relationships

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