

Subject	Core RE	Year Group	11	Sequence No.	1	Topic	What do we think about marriage?
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Retrieval	Core Knowledge	Student Thinking
What do teachers need retrieve from students before they start teaching new content ?	What specific ambitious knowledge do teachers need teach students in this sequence of learning?	What real life examples can be applied to this sequence of learning to development of our students thinking, encouraging them to see the inequalities around them and 'do something about them!'
<p>In session 3 students link back to session 2 to consider similarities/differences between Christian and Pagan views</p> <p>In session 4 students recall Pagan views towards marriage</p> <p>In session 4 students recall Christian views towards same sex marriage</p> <p>In session 5 students recall the Hindu views towards marriage</p> <p>In session 6 students recall the concept and practice of polyamory</p>	<p><u>What is marriage?</u> the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship (historically and in some jurisdictions specifically a union between a man and a woman). "a happy marriage"</p> <p><u>Statistics linked to marriage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office for National Statistics also said that the number of opposite-sex marriages had fallen by 47% since 1972. • Around one in 35 marriages in England are now among same-sex couples • The average age at marriage for opposite-sex couples was 38 years for men and 35 years for women, continuing the overall rise in average age recorded since the 1970s • Religious people are more likely to marry than non-religious people <p><u>What do Christians think about marriage?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity is the religion with the most followers around the world, so let's find out what they might think about marriage • Most Christians believe marriage is an important part of life. They believe the purpose of marriage is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unite with someone they love for the rest of their lives • to be faithful and make this commitment with God's blessing and in God's presence • to have children who can also be part of the Christian faith • What does Christianity say about cohabitation (living together without being married)? • some Christians believe they do not need to get married to show their love for each other and cohabitation is therefore acceptable 	<p>In this sequence of learning students will consider their own and others views towards marriage, they will link this to British values/society/rule of law. They will do this through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will discuss what we can learn about society from the marriage statistics, whether they are surprised and why we are seeing these trends • Students will discuss what their views are towards marriage • Students discuss why religious groups are more likely to marry • Students consider whether they agree or disagree with Christian views towards marriage • Students consider their views towards cohabitation • Students discuss Christian views towards same sex marriage • Students discuss their views towards Pagan marriage • Students compare and contrast different religious views towards marriage • Students consider whether a marriage should involve children • Students consider sexual relationships before and during marriage • Students discuss the challenges of mixed faith marriages • Students explore the idea of polyamory and compare it to different religious views • Students consider why polyamory is more male orientated and why its more controversial for women

- some Christians, eg members of the Church of England, accept cohabitation if it will lead on to marriage, while still advocating marriage as the ideal
- some Christians, eg Roman Catholic Christians do not accept cohabitation as they believe sex should only happen in marriage
- There are different Christian attitudes same-sex marriage:
- Most Roman Catholics do not believe that homosexual feelings are a sin, but they do believe that the homosexual sex act is sinful.
- Many Evangelical Christians believe that homosexual feelings are a sin
- Many members of the Church of England support same-sex relationships/marriage, but believe it is different to a religious marriage between a man and a woman.

What do Pagans think about marriage?

- A pagan is a person who holds a religious belief different to that of the major world religions
- It's a pre Christian religion
- Different to Abrahamic religions
- Its on the rise
- Pagans take the swearing of oaths very seriously indeed and believe it important that they articulate the sincere, considered intentions of the individuals concerned rather than merely repeating a standard formula used in other wedding ceremonies
- Weddings are known as handfastings. The symbolic act of a couple's hands being tied together, often with cords or ribbons, representing their union.
- Vows are discussed and decided upon by them beforehand, in consultation with the Priestess and/or Priest who will officiate at the ceremony
- A couple may choose to handfast for the traditional period of a year and a day, and it is not uncommon for Pagans in long-term relationships to renew their vows after each year and a day has passed so that neither comes to take the other for granted.
- Others vow to handfast for life while a few, in accordance with Pagan beliefs in reincarnation, do so for all their future lives as well.
- The ceremony will be held out of doors if at all possible, and will begin with the marking out of sacred space (usually in the form of a circle), the honoring of the Four Elements, and a welcome for all who are present.

What do Hindus think of marriage?

- Many Hindus see marriage as a life-long, sacred ceremony that binds a man and woman together.
- Marriage is very important to Hindus
- They believe there are 4 stages in life
- Marriage is seen as part of stage 2-householder and parent
- Marriage is also viewed by many Hindus as the right place in which to enjoy sexual pleasure.
- Hindu attitudes towards same-sex marriages vary.
- Some view same-sex relationships as an acceptable aspect of human love and welcome the opportunity for couples to make a legal commitment to each other. They may argue that the issue of having children is no different for same-sex couples as for infertile heterosexual couples, with the favored option of many being adoption.
- Some Hindus are against same-sex relationships having similar status to heterosexual relationships because they believe the parentage of children is important and the 'norm' is for people to marry someone of the opposite sex.
- Mixed-faith marriages
- Marriages between Hindus and people of different or no faith are not uncommon.
- There is no requirement that both partners undertaking the marriage ceremony are Hindu.
- The religion does not have an 'entrance' ritual, if someone wanted to join. People who 'convert' to Hinduism simply start living by following Hindu teachings.

Polyamory

- Polyamory differs from straight-up cheating, which involves spouses doing it behind each other's back. It also differs from Polygamy where only one person gets to have many partners.
- Polygamy is legal in 58 out of 200 countries around the world, including across much of Africa and in many Middle Eastern states.
- It is important to note that when we talk about polygamy, often what we're really talking about is polygyny – where a man takes more than one wife. Polyandry, where a woman takes more than one husband, is a much rarer practice.
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