



Title: Romantic and Loving Relationships: Living together, Marriage and Civil Partnerships

Level: Fourth

Code: 4.1.2

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Experiences/Outcomes

- I understand the importance of being cared for and caring for others in relationships and can explain why. HWB 4-44a
- I understand and can explain the importance of, and need for, commitment, trust and respect in loving and sexual relationships. I understand the different contexts of such relationships including marriage. HWB 4-44c

Benchmarks

- Justifies why commitment, trust and respect are central to being cared for and caring for others.
- Explains the importance of shared values and goals in sustaining a loving and sexual relationships, for example, mutual respect, agreement on sex.

About this activity

This activity encourages young people to consider (if they were to live with a partner) whether they might want to live together or get married or have a civil partnership. There is some basic factual-information about the status of each.

Resources to support this activity

- Slides
- Discussion cards
- True/False Quiz

Activity

1. Introduce the activity as being *about what couples choose to do when they are thinking about living together – whether they just live together or whether they get married or (if they are gay or lesbian) have a civil partnership. To get us going, some **BASIC FACTS** are on the slide.*
Read together and help clarify any points.

2. Introduce the next task as: *we are going to have some discussion, in small groups first and then some feedback and chat in the big group.* Remind everyone that there are no 'right or wrong' answers when we have discussions, everybody can have an opinion and should respect other opinions too.

The cards read:

- **Marriage is an old-fashioned idea. Most young people will probably just live together.**
What do you think? Why? What would people at home think?
- **Getting married or having a Civil Partnership is important because it says that people are committed to their relationship.**
What do you think? Why? What would people at home think?
- **Marriage and Civil Partnerships have become over commercialised, too expensive, and people forget what it really means to get married/civil partnered.**
What do you think? Why? What would people at home think?
- **You should live with someone before you get married or in a civil partnership.**
What do you think? Why? What would people at home think?
- **If a couple are having children it's best if they are married/in a civil partnership, rather than living together.**
What do you think? Why? What would people at home think?

Have young people work in groups of two or three for a **TRUE/FALSE QUIZ**. The quiz provided helps young people to think about further aspects of marriage, civil partnership and living together. When looking at the results, there is some detail provided to explain each True/False response. Have some discussion as you go through the answers, exploring any misinformation and opinions. For example: *What do you think about 16 as the age young people can marry/get a civil partnership?* Add up the scores and have a prize for the winners! Or a prize for everyone!

3. Question 10 relates to **Forced Marriage**, you should ensure understanding of this issue. In the additional resources below, there is further guidance and a learning pack available if this is an area you want to explore further. You may want to go online in the class to this page and have a look at the key points, encouraging young people to look again themselves later:
<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/forced-marriage/>
4. If there is time, or as a task to take away, have the young people use their phones/tablets to find out more about getting married and civil partnerships online at Citizens Advice Bureau Scotland:
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/family/living-together-marriage-and-civil-partnership-s/getting-married-s/#h-getting-engaged> *Are there things that are additional or interesting to what has already been covered in class?*

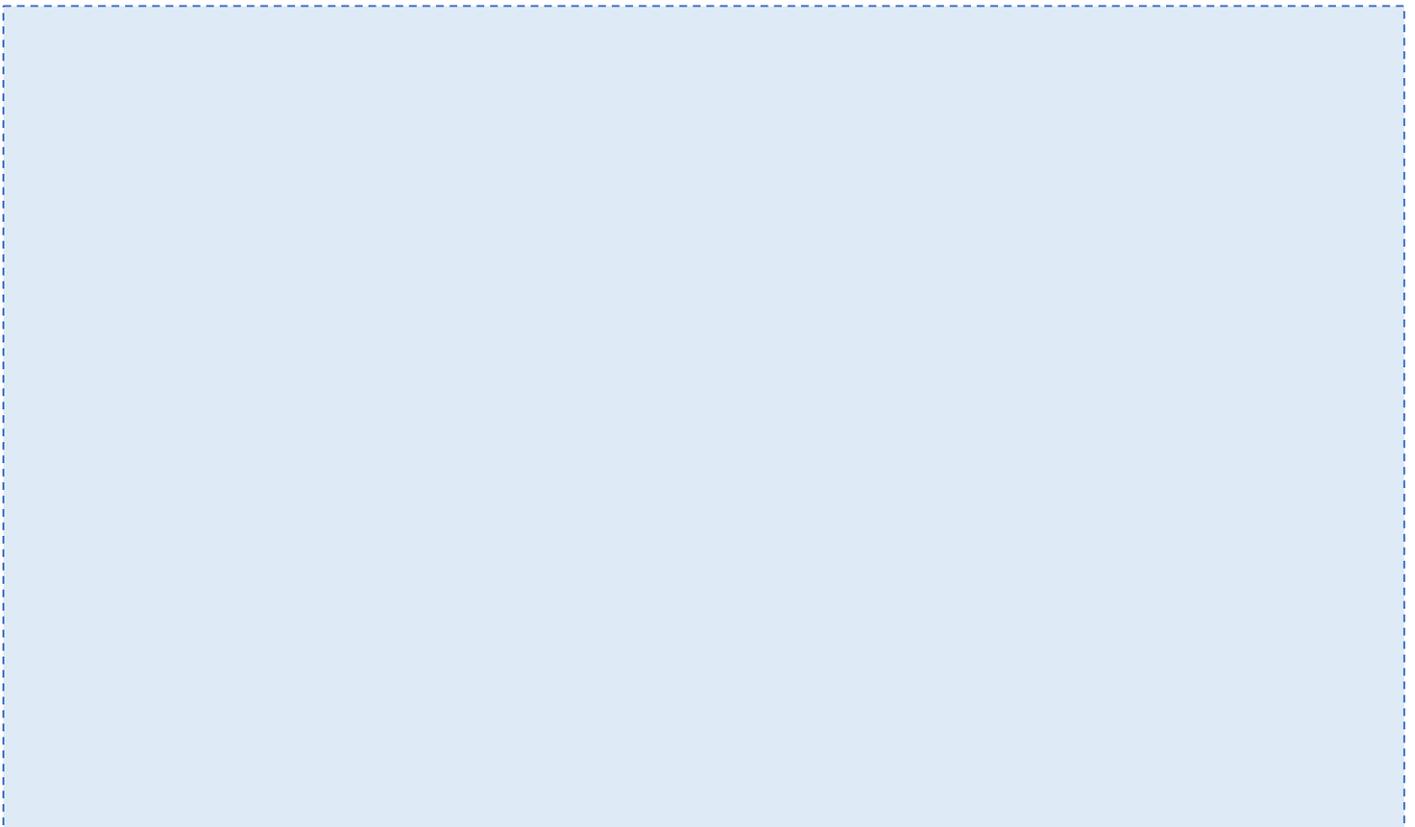
Connecting with home

- Learning Activity 4.1.1 has a short paragraph that could be used to communicate with home about this block of learning on romantic and loving relationships.
- The young people could be given a copy of the quiz to take home and encouraged to bring back their family score to the next lesson.

Further learning activities are available that connect to this RSHP curriculum content

- 4.1.1 Love
- 4.1.3 Making a relationship work
- 4.1.4 Qualities of a partner and talking about relationships

Practitioner Notes



True/False Quiz

Questions

1. There are approximately 30,000 marriages or civil partnerships every year in Scotland: T/F?
2. You have to be aged 18 or over to get married: T/F?
3. If you get engaged, you have to marry your partner: T/F?
4. There are 2 kinds of marriage ceremonies: a civil marriage or a religious/belief ceremony: T/F?
5. You need to have 2 witnesses present at your wedding/civil partnership: T/F?
6. To get married you must register your intention to marry at least 28 days before the marriage: T/F?
7. If you are already married or in a civil partnership it is illegal to get married/civil partnered again: T/F?
8. If you get divorced or your partner dies, you can get married/have a civil partnership again: T/F?
9. If you are not married or in a civil partnership but you live with your partner this is called common-law husband or wife and its just the same as being married. T/F?
10. Forcing someone to marry without their full and free consent is against the law and an abuse of their human rights. T/F?

Answers

1. **True.**
2. **False.** You can marry from the age of 16.
3. **False.** If you or your partner decide to end an engagement, the agreement to marry cannot be legally enforced. In these circumstances, it is not legally clear what should happen about engagement rings. The ring should be returned if the giver made clear that in the event of a broken engagement it should be returned. Gifts should be returned if they were given on condition of marriage. This, however, cannot be legally enforced.
4. **True.** A religious ceremony includes religious beliefs and other belief systems such as humanism. A religious ceremony can be held anywhere (for example on a boat or hillside. A civil marriage can take place in a registrar's office or in any other appropriate location (other than religious premises) that has been agreed by the couple and the registration authority, for example, a stately home, or on a hillside.
5. **True.** As well as the couple, and the person who is conducting the ceremony, you must have 2 witnesses aged 16 or over.
6. **True.** You and your partner will each need to give notice to the **district registrar** for the area where you intend to marry. Your intention to marry is a public announcement that anyone can see.
7. **True.** If you marry or enter a civil partnership in the UK when you are already in one, the marriage/partnership is bigamous and will be void. Bigamy is a crime.
8. **True.** But some religions have rules about whether you can re-marry in a religious ceremony.
9. **False.** The term 'common - law' husband or wife is often used but has no legal standing. It is a common misunderstanding that a couple will have established a 'common law marriage' after living together for a period of time.
10. **True.** If you are afraid that you may be forced into a marriage in this country, or that someone in this country may be planning to force you into a marriage while you are abroad, you should ask for help immediately. You can ask the Police for help.