

PSHE Citizenship

RESPECTING DIFFERENCES

It's a battle of the sexes in these resources as girl takes on boy on the speedway circuit. The resources will help pupils to explore that we are all different and that those differences should be respected.

Before using the audio resources:

On the class board under the heading 'Spot the difference' a number of pairs of images could be displayed. These images could actually be very similar, but with observable differences (e.g. two famous footballers from the same club - one tall, one short; one young, one retired; of different ethnic origin etc.) This would draw attention to similarities as well as differences. In recognising similarities we should also be able to respect differences.

Using the audio resources:

1. Discussion.

How are we all different...and how are we all the same? What experiences do the group have of 'feeling different'?

2. Listen to Voxpops 1.

See below for a transcript.

Listen to Voxpops 1 either to help promote discussion/consideration or to reinforce children's ideas already expressed. In the audio the children talk about some of the occasions they have different from others...or the odd one out.

3. Drama, part 1.

See below for a synopsis.

Introduce the first part of the drama and remind the children to listen carefully because soon it will be their opportunity to discuss what happens.

The presenter introduces the main character in the story - Wesley. The story is told from Wesley's point of view. The main characters are:

Wesley – a boy with a passion for speedway racing

Jed – his friend

Ben – his friend

Zena - a new recruit to the speedway youth team

You may wish to display a suitable image to act as a focus while listening to the drama. Use the online resources to display a large picture of a speedway race. Display this at any time during the drama.

4. Discussion.

At the end of Drama, part 1 discuss/consider the following:

What's it like being either a boy or a girl?

Are you expected to behave in certain ways?

What are those ways – and how do you feel about them?

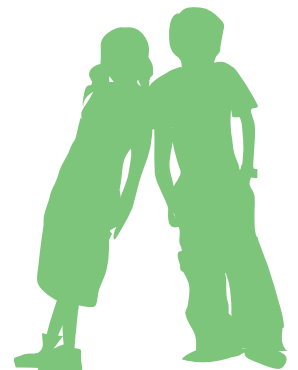
5. Drama, part 2.

See below for a synopsis.

Explain that it's time to listen to the second part of the story, in which we'll find out what happens as the boys get stuck into the youth team...and how they plan to stop Zena winning the big race.

6. Final discussion.

At the end of Drama, part 2 discuss the following:





Imagine that you are one of the racers in the Reds' Youth Team and that it's Jed's first day back after the accident. What will you say to him about his behaviour?

How will you get him to 'respect differences'? Why is it important that we all 'respect differences'?

7. Have your say!

When you've discussed/considered the questions above please use the [Contact us](#) page of the School Radio website to let us know what you think about the story.

The significance of the theme:

The programme looks particularly at issues of gender, but the theme of respecting differences is a vital and multifaceted element of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum which makes up strand 4 as well as being evident elsewhere in the programme of study:

Preparing to play an active role as citizens

Pupils should be taught:

- to appreciate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom

Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people

Pupils should be taught:

- a: that their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and to try to see things from their points of view
- b: to think about the lives of people living in other places and times, and people with different values and customs
- f: that differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors, including cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity, gender and disability

Follow-up activities:

Open up the discussion on gender issues raised in the drama; air classroom/playground grievances and seek solutions acceptable to all. Allow/encourage any pupils who may feel 'different' (in any way) to express their feelings.

This will need sensitive handling and should only be approached if teacher and pupils feel that the class/school ethos is right.

Invite visiting speakers to talk to the class and answer questions (prepared earlier and edited by the teacher and class together). This may link with the RE curriculum and involve speakers from different faiths. It could also be visitors from a variety of ethnic/ cultural origins or from groups representing people with disability.

Research global situations where it appears that differences are far from respected. (Many Aid organisations have websites which offer an abundance of up-to-date information - some examples listed below). Working in pairs or small groups, prepare a report to share with fellow pupils. Pupils should be encouraged to be creative and imaginative in the ways that they present their reports.

Additional information:

www.cre.gov.uk The website of the Commission for Racial Equality

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

Drama, part 1 synopsis

The presenter sets scene: our story is about Wesley and his two friends Jed and Ben. The story is told from the point of view of Wesley.

Scene 1.

Wesley tells us how he loves going to his local speedway track to see the 'Reds' with his friends, Jed and Ben. They're enthusiastic supporters but the Reds never seem to win. The constant failure doesn't dampen Wesley's spirits though and when he tells Jed and Ben about a new 'youth team' initiative at the club the three friends determine to take part.

As Wesley waits for the first youth team meeting he dreams of being a speedway rider as he delivers pizzas on his bike. Then he tells us how after several weeks of training with the youth team the boys are ready for their first race...



Scene 2.

The speedway circuit - the first race. The coach gives the friends a reminder on safety: 'don't do anything silly'. Wesley, Jed and Ben are going to race against each other but they are still waiting for the fourth rider to appear. Suddenly an imposing speedway bike takes up position in the last remaining lane, the rider wearing a silver helmet. The boys can't see who it is.

The race gets underway but it's an anticlimax for Wesley, Jed and Ben: they are easily beaten by the silver helmet. At the end of the race the boys are wondering who the mysterious rider is. The rider removes their helmet and Jed and Ben are horrified because they've been beaten by Zena - a girl!

Wesley is much more reasonable – she's the best rider, simple as that. But Jed and Ben are clearly incapable of accepting that they could have been beaten by a girl.

Voxpops 1 transcript:

I was 8 when I came to this school and I felt very different because I wasn't at as high a standard as everybody else in my class.

I've only just recently come to this school. I've been here for about a year and a half and I felt different from all the others because they all knew each other and I was just this new girl.

I still feel a little bit different from everybody else because I seem to be a lot more energetic and hyper...

Well I'm a bit smaller than most of my class and sometimes I sort of get left out and...I'm not the first person to hear the gossip or anything...

Drama, part 2 synopsis

Scene 3.

Wesley begins the second part of the story by telling us how he and his friends Jed and Ben tried to show Zena that they could beat her. Then Jed gets desperate – he tries to knock Zena of the track. But his move backfires and it is Jed that gets hurt, not Zena. Zena comes over to them on the track and complains about their behaviour.

Then the big news. There'll be a special race – a youth team challenge. The prize is to do a lap of honour at the next meeting of the Reds. Wesley is excited – it's just what he's been waiting for. Jed and Ben are similarly excited. The only problem how to stop Zena from winning the race...but Jed has a plan.

Scene 4.

The speedway circuit. Jed forces Wesley to admit that he knows where Zena lives, and coerces Wesley into agreeing to take them there. Wesley knows he's doing wrong...but somehow he can't stop himself. So the three boys ride over to Zena's house on their bikes.

Scene 5.

Zena's house. The boys go into the garage where Zena's bike is. Jed is going to tamper with the bike to make sure Zena can't win. Wesley loses his nerve and runs away leaving the other two to carry out their plan.

The next few days are terrible for Wesley. He feels guilty about what he has been involved in but fails to tell Zena about what has happened. Then it's time for the big race.

