



Religious Education

Key Knowledge

Year 10

Relationships

Key Vocabulary



Attitudes towards sex- Sex is a natural part of life and is essential for reproduction and continuation of the human race. Christians believe that sex should take place within marriage. Sex is viewed as a gift from God, it is holy and **sacred**. Contraception is accepted by most Christians and Hindus within marriage for family planning purposes. Most Roman Catholics disagree with artificial methods of contraception due to **Natural Law**, which determines that every time sexual intercourse takes place there should be the possibility of a new life. They do accept natural methods within marriage.

Divorce- Attitudes to divorce in society have changed greatly since the 1950's. New laws in the UK have made it easier to obtain a divorce. Equal rights laws have meant that women would be treated fairly and would be able to be financially independent after divorce. There is a split of views in the church on the matter of divorce. The Roman Catholic Church do not allow religious divorce or remarriage. **Catholics** see marriage as a sacrament and the exchange of vows means that the only way the marriage can end (religiously) is by the death of one of the partners or if the marriage is annulled. The Catholic Church does not allow divorce so therefore they cannot remarry. It would be regarded as a very serious sin, breaking the commandment "*thou shalt not commit adultery*". The **Anglican Church** takes a more liberal view and although they still view divorce as wrong they will allow it if the marriage has broken down. They believe that there are certain situations where Christians must choose '*the lesser of two evils*'. If a marriage has broke down the effects on the rest of the family including the children would be a greater evil than the 'evil' of divorce. **Hindus** see marriage as part of a persons Dharma, therefore it is important to marry and have children. Divorce would put pressure on the extended family also, as in a Hindu marriage the two families are united. If divorce is to occur, new partners would be found within the local communities.

Same sex marriage- In 1967 homosexuality was decriminalised in Britain. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 enabled same-sex partners to have similar legal rights as married couples. The Marriage 2013 Act legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales. **Many Christians** oppose same-sex marriage quoting the Bible which condemns homosexual acts. **Some Christians** believe the Bible was speaking to a culture and society that doesn't exist today and are fine with same-sex marriage. **The Catholic Church** prohibits it stating a marriage is between a man and woman. **The Anglican Church** does not legally allow same-sex marriages to happen in their churches. Some priests accept it and perform a blessing in their church instead. **The United Reform Church** allows same-sex marriages to take place. **Hindus** forbids same-sex marriages and homosexual relationships. Marriage is a sacred contract between a man and woman. Since homosexuality is immoral, so are same-sex marriages. **Humanists** argue humans should be happy in their life, therefore same-sex marriages/relationships are positive. **Roles of men and women**- UK law, 2010 Equality Act protects from discrimination based on sex. In religion, **Some Christians** argue that men were in authority during Jesus' life. All the disciples were men. Women should be quiet in church. **Other Christians** say all are equal, Jesus respected women, the Good Samaritan teaches against discrimination, all are created in God's image. **Catholics** allow women to take active roles in worship, they can become nuns; but cannot be ordained priests. Men & women are equal but have different roles. **The Anglican Church** allowed women priests in 1994 and then bishops in 2014. **Other churches** see some women as ministers.

Adultery – voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person who is not their spouse.

Divorce – to legally end a marriage

Cohabitation – to live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership.

Commitment – a sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something.

Contraception – methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse.

Gender equality – people of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives.

Responsibilities - actions/duties you are expected to carry out.

Roles – position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them.

Promiscuity – having many casual sexual relationships

Fidelity – two people being sexually faithful to each other.

Procreation – reproduction.

Key context

The importance of marriage Different denominations interpret the teachings about marriage and divorce differently. Some Christians believe that marriage is the only acceptable way for Christians to have a sexual relationship:- "*...a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh*" (Mark ch10:6-8) Christians believe that marriage is forever:- "*....what God has joined together, let no man separate*" (Mark 10:9-10). In Genesis it teaches Christians about the equality of men and women as they were created at the same time and were both created in the image of God. "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them*" (Gen ch1:27). In the Bible it teaches Christians about honesty in relationships: "*Do not commit adultery*" (Exodus ch20). Christians believe that divorce is a sin:- "*...Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits*