

Friendship

This topic sheet will help pupils to understand and think about the importance of having friends and to think about what might get in the way of making friends.



Best Friends

"My best friend at the time was called John Wilkinson, and I remember he was always there, he was a really good mate at the time, and if I needed to go to the loo, then I could take somebody with me, 'cause of the time it took me, so if me and him wanted a skive, I used to say, 'I need to go to the loo, sir,' and Johnny would come with me and we'd hang around, chatting outside and stuff"

Mark (born 1960) <http://bit.ly/1ajd2AA>

"There'll be three of us and I'll be on one side, maybe Tom will be on the other side and there'll be Lee or Mia in the middle and she'll have a bag of sweets and she'll feed me one to my mouth 'cause I can't lift my hands up, but then she'll equally just turn around and feed Tom one and he's just being lazy, he can't be bothered reaching over for a sweet, but it's just that, we've got that nice holistic kind of feel, we do everything for each other and we're there to support each other and it's nice"

Miro (born 1989) <http://bit.ly/1eeLHPk>

"I had a best friend at school called Sandra. We were best friends right from the beginning of school, we quickly established a bond and a link, so from the age of four or five, we were great mates. I used to go round to her house at weekends, I can remember that, playing with her family and everything. So we were in school right from the age of five, and we went on to secondary school together. Sandra actually supported me a lot, used to carry my bags at school for me. I couldn't carry my bags, but I do remember she used to get called 'Drag a Bag' because she had her bags and my bags"

Lynda (born 1962) <http://bit.ly/1cGalXb>

Class friends

"I remember there was a little girl who always wore her favourite pink shoes. Her name was Jennifer. She would stay with me and play at lunch but I actually don't know what she thinks of me. Does she remember me? It's nice thinking about her now"

Maresa (born 1984) <http://bit.ly/13dZ3Xt>

What got in the way

"I only had female PAs and it was hard sometimes because I wanted to be friends with everyone but I felt the PAs made friendships with girls easier than boys. Isn't it hard to imagine that your friendships depend on a PA? It's very hard. There were PAs who focused fully on the work I had to do too much and didn't allow me to have a friend and socialise, but there were PAs who were the other way round; they never really understood how to assist me in getting the work done. The balance was always tricky but I loved having at least one person in the classroom who would talk to me"

Maresa (born 1984) <http://bit.ly/19iyFp>

"I didn't really feel that I actually had any real friends, apart from my brothers and sisters' friends because they'd gone to school with individuals, because I was at a special school, segregated school meant that I didn't have meaningful friendships. Your school is not always within your neighbourhood and that was my problem, it wasn't actually in the neighbourhood, so there's moments in your life that can be lonely"

Michelle (born 1972) <http://bit.ly/14juqm7>

"When I was first put into mainstream school I spent most of my time being surrounded by groups of kids in the playground that all wanted to play with me and be my friend and I used to be surrounded by kids and I used to play with them and it used to be absolutely fine and everyone was happy, but looking back on it I can see that a large proportion of them wanted to be friends with me so they could push my wheelchair or hang out with the kid in the wheelchair and that kind of thing rather than because of who I was as an individual"

Zara (born 1985) <http://bit.ly/17EyBpl>

Friendship

Ideas for Discussion and Activities

What Makes a Good Friend?

Whole class activity. Play a selection of the audio clips to the class. With the class divide some or all of the following statements into 'true' and 'false': A friend should ...

Be honest and not lie

Need me to help get about

Be a good listener

Do whatever I say

Have lots of toys and games

Wear nice clothes

Be my friend on Facebook

Only talk to me

Have other friends

Be forgiving

Be interested in other people

Have lots of money

Care about other people

Do the right thing

Always agree with what I say

Have lots of Friends on Facebook

Look / Be the same as me

Be kind

Buy me presents

Help me when I need help

Live in a big house

Stand up for me

Go to the same school as me

Care about me

Expand the children's answers, ask why, ask for examples. Have a class discussion about what it means to be a friend. You might include thoughts on what it means to be a 'Friend' on Facebook.

Play the class the 'Friendship Code' (40 second video) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/the-friendship-code/10438.html> (or this could be used to introduce the session)

Additional activity: Draw around two children so you have two large outlines, or draw two figures on the board. One figure is titled 'Good Friend', one figure is titled 'Bad Friend'. Create the two images as a class or in groups using words and pictures to describe the differences.

Writing Activity: Ask the children to create poems based on their new understanding of friendship and what it means to them. Give a few examples of 'first lines' to get them started. This activity could also follow on from the 'I like friends who..' game below, using first lines developed from the game.

Friendship Games

I like friends who...

Arrange the class in a circle. One after the other they say "I like friends who..." then give their answer. On the first round they are allowed repetitions. On the second go they all have to say something different.

Guess Who?

Begin by describing one of the children in the class. When the children think they know who has been described, they raise their hands. Select a child to guess. If the child guesses correctly, he or she will get to describe the next person. The easy version of this game is to just describe the person's clothes or appearance, the harder version is to describe positively what they are good at and all the things you like about this person. Make it clear that there should be no negative comments.

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Other Resources

<http://bit.ly/1554lrw>

Free resources from EverySchool focussing on friendship for KS2.

Curriculum Areas

PSHE
Citizenship
History
Literacy
IT
SEAL Outcomes