

# Lesson four: My beliefs



## Lesson aim:

Pupils can identify and respect differences and similarities between people, and can celebrate this.



## Learning outcomes:

- I know I am the same as other people in some ways
- I know I am different to other people in some ways
- I can celebrate the similarities and differences that people have



## Resources required:

- Resource sheet: Bunting flag template

## Key words: similarities, differences

### Teacher notes:

When teaching about similarities and differences, be mindful to be equally enthusiastic about all contributions made. Pupils are likely to share something that they are very proud of and this will need to be reaffirmed. Encourage pupils to celebrate their similarities and differences by role- playing giving and receiving compliments with confidence.

The bunting flag templates from Activity three can be joined together with string, and strung up within the classroom to make a display that celebrates the difference and diversity of your class.

### Begin the lesson by...

Explaining to pupils that we are all different and unique and that this makes us incredibly special. It is wrong for someone to be unkind to another person because they are different in some way. The world would be a boring place if everyone was the same. Imagine a world where everyone looked the same, or wanted to do the same job! Our differences should be celebrated.

## **Activity one: Similarities**

Ask pupils to work in pairs to discover one thing that they both have in common. This could be a physical attribute (both have blue eyes); family circumstances (both being adopted); a skill (good at maths); favourite food etc.

Once the pairs have identified a similarity, ask them to join with another pair and find something all four have in common. Tell the groups to keep joining up until the whole class has joined up together to identify at least one thing that they all have in common. If they struggle to do this, it could be that they all belong to the same class.



**What does it feel like to share a similarity with someone? What does it feel like to be part of a bigger group that has a similarity?**

## **Activity two: Differences**

Ask pupils to stand in a circle and take it in turns to step into the circle and say what they feel makes them special and different. Encourage them to do this as though they were paying themselves a compliment. For example, 'I like how I care for other people if they are sad' or 'I am very good at football'. After each pupil suggestion, reaffirm why and how this is a special difference to the pupils.



**What does it feel like to be uniquely different?**

## **Activity three: Happy to be me**

Give each pupil a bunting flag template. Tell pupils to draw a picture of themselves that celebrates their unique differences, as identified in Activity two. Pupils can decorate the bunting flag by adding borders etc. Once completed, invite pupils to come to the front of the class either individually or in pairs to hold up their bunting flag and say what it is that they are proud of that makes them special and unique.



## Extension:

Create a 'We are all different' word mat. Pupils can write and illustrate the ways in which people can be different and any words that they have learned about difference. These may include:

- Hair colour
- Disability
- Talents
- Languages spoken
- Beliefs
- Different
- Similar
- Unique
- Disability
- Special
- Diverse

The word mats can be laminated and used as place markers or table protectors on the pupil's desks.

### Finish the lesson by:

Providing pupils with an opportunity to ask questions. Ask pupils to share with the class an example of a positive compliment that they could give to themselves. Reassure pupils that we all share some similarities and differences. Remind pupils that everyone is special and unique. It is our differences that can help to make us special, shaping the people that we are and will grow up to become. It is never OK to be unkind to someone because they are different in any way.

Tell pupils that in our school we are proud to be ourselves, and that bullying is not tolerated.

If anyone is unkind it is important to tell an adult in the school, who will help to make sure the situation is dealt with and does not keep happening. Difference and diversity is a wonderful thing and should always be celebrated! Signpost pupils to who they can talk to in school if they have any worries or questions about what has been taught in the lesson.



## Assessment:

**Activity one:** Pupils identified a range of similarities between themselves and their peers.

**Activity two:** Pupils demonstrated confidence in identifying and sharing differences between themselves and their peers.

**Activity three:** Pupils celebrated their differences by making a 'This is me' bunting flag.

**Evidence of assessment:** Bunting flags; Word mats (if extension activity completed).

