



Protected characteristics

How can our Jigsaw PSHE lessons help?

Each week the children take part in a PSHE lesson usually from the JIGSAW scheme. The ground rules within these lessons are fundamental to creating and maintaining an inclusive and safe teaching and learning environment. Establishing such an environment for both pupils and teachers is important for PSHE education lessons – especially those focusing on equality and the protected characteristics, as it:

- enables them to feel comfortable exploring values and attitudes
- enables them to express their own opinions and consider the views and opinions of others, without the fear of negative feedback, and only if they choose to.

In Jigsaw, this happens in every single lesson. It is crucial to establish a safe, open and inclusive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and students alike. To enable this, it is important that 'ground rules' are agreed and owned at the beginning of the year and are reinforced in every Piece – by using The Jigsaw Charter.

One of the most important elements of the Charter is the Right to Pass, where children and young people understand fully that they do not have to participate in the discussion/activity if they do not wish to. This creates a space where they can feel safe and their wishes are taken seriously by adults and peers alike. This is vital when teaching about safeguarding in both an implicit and explicit way. They choose whether they speak or not and their right to pass is upheld and respected.

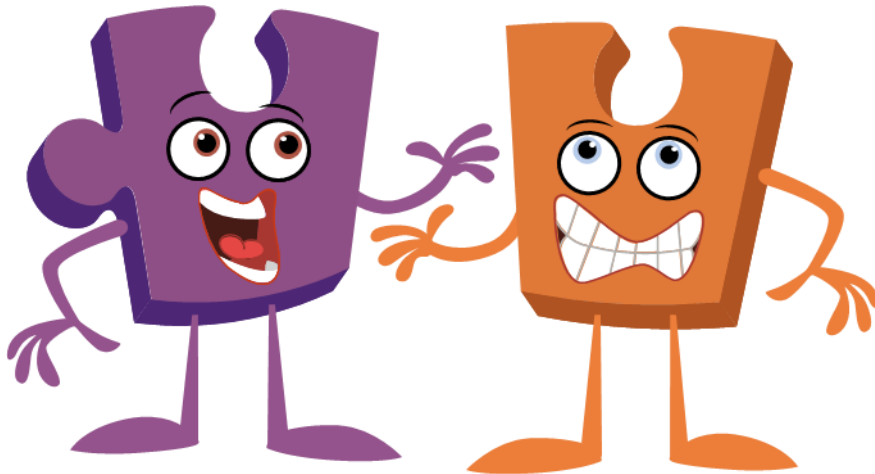
The Jigsaw Charter refers to confidentiality too. Although, realistically, it is unlikely that complete confidentiality will be observed, it is important that children/young people are taught to respect the privacy of others and to do their best to keep what is said in Jigsaw Pieces (lessons) confidential. The teacher must emphasise that they cannot promise complete confidentiality as they must report any information relating to safeguarding concerns.

Throughout Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, students are encouraged by staff to ask questions, to find someone who can help them, and ultimately to help themselves by becoming more independent.

In terms of content, the Puzzle 'Celebrating Difference' is the most pertinent of units for teaching about the protected characteristics, as it focuses on similarities and differences and teaches about diversity, such as disability, racism, gender, family composition, friendships, and conflict. Children learn to accept everyone's right to 'difference', and most year groups explore the concept of 'normal'. Bullying – what it is and what it isn't, including cyber and homophobic bullying – is an important aspect of this Puzzle.

The 'Relationships' Puzzle also has a wide focus, looking at diverse topics such as families, friendships, equality in relationships, and love and loss – all of which can help to deliver the vital messages behind the Equality Act. A vital part of this Puzzle is about safeguarding and keeping children safe; this links to cyber safety and social networking, as well as attraction and assertiveness; children learn how to deal with conflict,

their own strengths and self-esteem. They have the chance to explore roles and responsibilities in families and look at stereotypes. All Jigsaw lessons are delivered in an age- and stage-appropriate way so that they meet pupils' needs and can help them understand the wider world.



At River View, we can align Jigsaw PSHE lessons to the Equality Act. The grid below offers some suggestions as to how particular Jigsaw lessons support our school with teaching the nine protected characteristics. Note that this list is not exhaustive as there are numerous other lessons that teach about equality.

Protected characteristics	What this refers to	Links to Jigsaw 3-11
Age	Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (for example, 32-year-olds) or range of ages (for example, 18- to 30-year-olds).	<p>Celebrating Difference</p> <p>Age 8-9 Piece 1: Judging by Appearance</p> <p>Age 8-9 Piece 2: Understanding Influences</p> <p>Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference</p> <p>Ages 10-11 Piece 3: Power Struggles</p>



Disability	A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	Celebrating Difference Ages 10-11 Piece 5: Celebrating difference Age 6-7 Piece 4: Standing up for Myself and others Age 8-9 Piece 1: Judging by Appearance Age 8-9 Piece 6: Celebrating Differences: How We Look Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference
Gender reassignment	The process of transitioning from one gender to another.	Celebrating Difference Ages 5-6 Piece 6: Celebrating Me. Ages 7-8 Piece 5: Gender diversity Ages 8-9 Piece 1: Judging by appearances Ages 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding difference NB. In Jigsaw the focus is on accepting all people as unique individuals, not on transitioning itself.
Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin	Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.	Celebrating Difference Ages 9-10 Piece 1: Different Cultures Ages 9-10 Piece 2: Racism Age 7-8 Piece : Families Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference



<p>Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief</p>	<p>Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (such as Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.</p>	<p>Celebrating Difference Ages 9-10 Piece 1: Different Cultures Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference</p>
<p>Being married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>Marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).</p>	<p>Celebrating Difference Ages 7-8 Piece 1: Families Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference</p> <p>Relationships Age 5-6 Piece 1: Families Ages 6-7 Piece 1: Families</p>
<p>Sex</p>	<p>A man or a woman.</p>	<p>Celebrating Difference Ages 6-7 Pieces 1&2: Boys and Girls Age 8-9 Piece 1: Judging by Appearances Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference</p> <p>Changing Me Age 7-8 Piece 5: Family Stereotypes</p>



Sexual orientation	Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.	Celebrating Difference Age 6-7 Piece 4: Standing up for Myself and others Age 7-8 Piece 1: Families Age 9-10 Piece 3: Rumours and Name Calling Age 9-10 Piece 4: Types of Bullying Age 10 – 11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference Relationships Age 8- 9 Piece 5: Girlfriends and Boyfriends Changing Me Ages 10-11 Piece 4: Boyfriends and girlfriends
Being pregnant or on maternity leave	Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.	Celebrating Difference Ages 3-4/4-5 Piece 3: Families Ages 7-8 Piece 1: Families Age 10-11 Piece 2: Understanding Difference