

■ Spiritual

Learning intention Show an understanding of how being made in the image and likeness of God informs decisions and actions when building relationships with others, including life-long relationships.

Introduction and content

To be made in the image and likeness of God is to share in his dignity, to be created for his sake alone and to be called to everlasting happiness. Above all, he has given us freedom: he has created us free as he is free. Our soul, our mind and our body will each share in this freedom. Our life is precious, and our body is God's gift to us.

Pope Francis teaches that in the Old Testament, to live in the image of God, who is holy, includes caring for the most vulnerable, such as the orphan and the widow. He goes on to say that Jesus completes the law by uniting in himself the human and the divine, which now become a single mystery of love.

1 Questions to consider

- 1) What are the characteristics of positive respectful relationships? Include the different ways that we can make friends and relationships with others? E.g. social media platforms. When making friends on-line we should be cautious of the information we share and how it could be used: positively or negatively.
- 2) When building relationships on-line, how can we recognise risks, such as inappropriate images, language and behaviour, and to who and how we would report these?
- 3) What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others, including in a digital context? If boundaries have been crossed, such as inappropriate or unsafe contact, how would we report this and where could we get advice?
- 4) How can we ensure that we are contributing to the wellbeing of others and are taking steps to avoid seeing negatives; how would this impact on building positive relationships?
- 5) How can we discover the presence of God in family and friends?

2 Possible activities

- 1) List the characteristics of positive relationships and how these can make us feel happy and secure, and how we are appreciative to God for these.
- 2) Create an information film clip/ video/ poster/ PowerPoint for the rules of keeping safe on-line and how to keep our information protected from those that may harm us.
- 3) Marriage represents a commitment which is intended to be lifelong. List any other relationships that are lifelong and the steps taken to improve and support these relationships.
- 4) Look at an 'Order of Service' or a DVD of a 'Marriage' and discuss some positive steps undertaken by the couple to ensure life-long relationships.