

Delivery notes

Starter activity: Why do we think that?

5–10 minutes

This discussion activity gets pupils thinking more about influences on their opinions. They generate a class list, which can be displayed and referred to whenever the class is doing activities and learning about values.

Organisation: Discussion in small mixed-ability groups

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Step 1: Ask pupils to share some of the things they really care about. For example:

- the football/other sports team they support
- favourite writers or actors
- favourite TV programmes or computer games
- pop bands or celebrities they like.

Explain that even when people make up their own minds about what they believe, their opinions will be influenced by who they know and what they read, hear, experience, etc.

Step 2: In groups, ask pupils to make a list of who or what might have influenced their choices, for example:

- parents/carers
- siblings
- friends
- religion
- culture

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- on- or offline media
- social media (acknowledge that pupils may be using social media, whilst taking into account the age restrictions for sites such as Facebook, Skype and Twitter)
- TV programmes
- school

Ask groups to feed back their ideas to the rest of the class, and use these to generate a class list. Keep this list on display.