# **Disposition:** Caring for others, animals and the environment

## **Lesson:** One

### **Question/LO:** What is the difference between a wedding and marriage? How does a wedding relate to the couple’s marriage? How does a Humanist, Hindu or Sikh wedding encourage the couple to care for one another?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning from experience  *Consider the concept that the family unit is the fundamental basis for a caring society.* | Whole class activity: Ask children to discuss marriage and weddings.  *In many classrooms we anticipate that children will come from a variety of home situations (marriage and other). However, we expect that all children will at least have attended or seen a wedding.*  A wedding is a happy occasion in all religious traditions. Ask pupils to discuss in pairs why this might be a happy occasion.  Children may be able to bring in pictures of wedding ceremonies from different religious traditions and cultures. Otherwise, encourage them to source pictures on line. In pairs, children research and discuss wedding ceremonies from a variety of religious traditions.  *A marriage is more than a wedding. A wedding is a special ceremony that usually lasts for a day (or several) but a marriage lasts indefinitely. In all religious traditions the intention is that by forming a partnership, exchanging vows, and/or entering into a marriage contract, a couple will commit to caring for each other and any children that they may have. Society in the UK has traditionally been built upon the foundation of care within the family unit. Until recently, the family unit was always underpinned by marriage. Ensure that at some point in the discussion on its acknowledged that:*   * *a formal caring partnership as the basis of a family unit is not exclusive to any one religious tradition; and* * *such relationships exist between people of all religious traditions and of none.* | n/a |
| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious worldviews | Humanist wedding ceremonies show the importance of a couple wanting commitment and to be together. As the majority of humanists do not believe in God, the ceremony does not take place in a religious building or with a religious leader taking the ceremony. A Humanist person, called a celebrant, may lead the ceremony.  Watch the film about Humanist ceremonies:  In groups make a list of what the couples do in the ceremony to show that they love and care for one another.  Ask the children to list and illustrate acts of caring within the family unit. Include small acts of care, e.g. wiping noses, nursing a sick child and significant acts of care for a new born baby or elderly house-bound relative.  Choose to look at either Hindu or Sikh wedding ceremonies:  **Hindu**  Explain that special Hindu ceremonies and passages of life are known as Sanskars wedding is known as Vivah Sanskar. This is part of the time of life which involves setting up of the family. As part of marriage responsibilities and duties are explained. There are many rituals and stages of a Hindu wedding which can take several hours to perform. The main elements and symbols are:  Before the wedding henna hand pattern painting takes place: the darker the henna, the deeper the love of the couple.  The bride’s parents welcome the groom and his family, at the boundary of their house. Garlands (jayamaala) are placed around the groom’s and bride’s shoulders. It is the start of the two families becoming united. Why do you think that this is important?  The bride and groom sits under a special canopy or altar called a ‘madap’ which symbolises two people setting up their home together.  The groom’s face is hidden so he doesn’t see the bride before the ceremony. Showing that marriage is not all about looks.  During the ceremony, a sacred fire is lit and offerings are thrown into the fire while prayers are said. The couple take several steps around the fire together showing that they are united in their new life together.  During another part of the ceremony the bride climbs over a rock or an obstacle to show her willingness and strength to work at the marriage, to ‘overcome’ obstacles.  Another part of the ceremony is known as Gau Daan - *Gau* means cow and *Dann* donation – so traditionally there was a gift of a cow but today gifts are exchanged on both sides of the families. Ask the pupils why they think a cow was given and why is this so special?  Nuts are shared together: Each nut represents a different quality that a couple need in their new life together.  Watch the following film showing these aspects of a Hindu wedding. In the film, Simran shows photos of her auntie’s wedding in India, while another couple; Nikki and Hemal talk about their wedding in the UK.  Use the table on the resource sheet to illustrate how parts of the marriage ceremonies show caring for others.  **Sikh**  The belief with the Sikh marriage ceremony is that two people become one soul. The ceremony is known as ‘Anand Karaj’which means ‘blissful union’**.**  Some of the features of the marriage ceremony include:  The groom enters the Gurdwara while hymns are being sung. The bride enters later with her family and sits next to the groom.  The granthi or the person officiating will ask the bride and groom if they agree to marriage. The granthi then gives a talk about the nature of marriage and the ideal of a single soul in two bodies.  The father of the bride places one end of the scarf worn by the groom in the hand of his daughter. This literally unites the couple.  Four chapters of a hymn are read out or song. At the end of each chapter the groom leads the bride in a circle round the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh scriptures).  The Anand Sahib is sung. This writing is about happiness.  A prayer of thanks for the marriage ceremony is given.  Karah Parshad is distributed. This is a sweet pudding given to all who attend the Gurdwara.  Use the table on the resource sheet to illustrate how parts of the marriage ceremonies show caring for others | <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/res_films/what-is-a-humanist-ceremony/>  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/a-hindu-wedding/zmqrkmn>  KS2\_Y5\_Unit\_01\_Aut\_Wk\_01\_of\_03\_R123\_Resource\_Plan\_v2  <https://www.google.com/search?q=sikh+wedding+bbc&rlz=1C1CHBF_en-GBGB814GB814&oq=sikh+wedding+bbc&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j69i60.7807j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:bec633d7,vid:2Jd9bqml0ZI>  KS2\_Y5\_Unit\_01\_Aut\_Wk\_01\_of\_03\_R123\_Resource\_Plan\_v2 |