



Session Plan (45 mins)

Should the UK increase the age of marriage to 18?

Timing	Activity	Slide(s)
N/A	Feedback: Allow students some time to read the feedback from the NSPCC on the Safer Internet topic.	2
Optional	Starter: Why do people get married? (Skip if short on time) Students should read the reasons given for marriage and discuss on their tables what they think of these. Take some feedback.	3
3 minutes	Introduce the topic, learning objectives, key words and issues to consider: This week we are working with Unicef UK. Remind students who they can talk to if they are worried about anything from today's topic.	4-6
7 minutes	Is there such a thing as the 'right' age? On their own, students should draw a timeline of their life, plotting the expected age for a selection of key events. Take feedback on where (if at all) they put marriage and why.	7
10 minutes	Why are we talking about this? Read the information on slide 8 about child marriage and get each student to write down two facts when watching the video. Share these. You can use the globe to explore statistics on child marriage from around the world – try to find the UK. Do they find anything surprising? Slide 9 explains why we are asking students this question. Before you reveal the current law on marriage, get them to guess on post-its.	8-9
8 minutes	The current law on marriage: In pairs or threes, students should apply the law in purple boxes to the scenarios in grey, in order to decide whether they are legal or not. Click for answers and talk about them. Reveal the statistic on forced marriage and child marriage in the green box. What do your students think of these numbers?	10
12 minutes	Does the law protect you? Explain why some want to see the age of marriage raised to 18 without exception. Students are now going to explore other age restrictions in the law and the rationale behind them by filling out the table on slide 12. Use this table to generate discussion around what the law is for. Then, as a class, copy the diagram on slide 13 and take students' ideas for what else there is to protect them apart from the law. Watch the video of 15-year old Meera, who was forced to marry, and apply this to her. Discuss who has failed to protect her.	11-14
6 minutes	Should the age be raised? To end the lesson, ask students to reflect for two minutes and then write down the age they think someone should be to get married on a post-it. Display these at the front of class and choose a couple of students to justify their reasoning to the class.	15
N/A	Career Launchpad: Use this slide to learn more about this topic and a career linked to the subject.	16
1 minute	Yes/No summary: Encourage students to reflect on this topic before they vote.	17-18

Stretch & challenge tasks in this box

Supporting materials for SEND & and PP pupils in this box

Keywords:

- Emotional maturity
- Marriage
- Consent
- Forced
- Child

Career launchpad:

- Learn more about the impact of child marriage:** Watch the video to hear from a victim of child marriage.
- Website Moderator:** Read what it takes to become a website moderator – someone who keeps people safe online.