

TESTIMONIAL FROM WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Bob Wolfson, MA
Director, Department for Children & Education

To secondary school PSHE and Citizenship Coordinators and Heads of RE

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Please ask for: Graham Paton

Our ref:

Your ref:

27th March 2006

Dear Colleague,

Students Exploring Marriage

The attached flyer describes a service that you may well find to be a valuable contribution to your students' learning about relationships, whether in PSHE, Citizenship or RE.

Students Exploring Marriage offers the chance to give pupils that 'making it real' experience of face to face meeting and discussion with visitors – with much of the planning and organisation taken out of your hands. Through personal encounters with real people, it enables your students to explore the values and issues involved in the long term commitment of the marriage relationship, which remains the aspiration of a very high proportion of young people. You will be well aware of how much worthwhile learning can come out of this kind of direct experience, in which pupils have the stimulus of personal dialogue with visiting couples as well as the challenge of taking responsibility for the session and directing the course of the discussion.

As you will see, the focus of SEM is explicitly on the nature of the marriage relationship and family life within the broadly Christian tradition: as such, it offers insights and awareness of great value for all pupils, though you may well wish to seek ways of complementing the experience with opportunities to explore committed relationships in other social and cultural contexts, from arranged marriage to civil partnerships.

Students Exploring Marriage provides a convenient and effective way to introduce a real-life experience into your pupils' learning: I hope you will find it's a valuable element to bring in at an appropriate point in your curriculum.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Paton
Adviser for PSHE and Citizenship