

Collective worship



Bible link: James 3:5
Biblical value: Wisdom
Key idea: Words have power



Pupil involvement

Squeeze a tube of toothpaste out onto a plate. Ask a volunteer to come and put the toothpaste back into the tube. You could offer them a spoon, cocktail stick or glue spreader to help! Explain that it is very tricky to do this. It seems once the toothpaste is out, it is very difficult to put it back in. The words we choose to use are like this. Once we have said something, we can't take it back.

We are all free and should be able to say what we like. We can challenge others and disagree with even the people in authority such as governments, political parties or our teachers but we must consider the consequences of our words. If you do not consider how what you say may impact others and you hurt someone's feelings or knock their confidence, then you have not chosen your words carefully or wisely or used your freedom responsibly.

Pupil talk

- How important do you think words are?
- Have you ever said something you wish you could take back? Perhaps when you were feeling angry or upset about something?
- Can you think of a time when words have had the power to damage/hurt you or encourage/enlighten you?

Think

Chief executive of the electric car manufacturer, Tesla, and founder of SpaceX, Elon Musk, has reached a deal to buy Twitter, stating that he is the right person to release the social media platform's extraordinary potential. One of his issues is with the lack of free speech – some users have been banned altogether from the platform, including former US President, Donald Trump. In March, Musk asked his followers whether they thought the social media platform encouraged free speech.

In the bible, one of Jesus' followers, James, reminds us of how powerful words can be. They can cause great damage or bring peace and kindness.

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
We are sorry for the times we use hurtful words when we feel angry, frustrated or upset.
Help us to choose our words wisely and responsibly and to consider others before we speak.
Help us to use our freedom of speech for good.
Amen

Key stage 1 class discussion

- Can you think of a time when somebody has said something that has made you feel happy or sad?
- Do you feel like you can always say what you want to?
- Is it easier to say what you want to people you know and trust? Who do you trust?

Key stage 2 class discussion

- Can you always speak freely?
- Do you think everyone in the world is free to say what they want?
- Do you think social media is a good place for people to speak freely?
- Is it possible to speak freely without antagonising or hurting someone? Does how you say something and the words you choose to use affect this?

Worship song

This little light of mine



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God