



Engaging scenarios to help children challenge bias and stereotypes

Challenging stereotypes and bias with children is essential in fostering an inclusive and respectful environment where everyone feels valued. By encouraging children to celebrate differences, we help them develop empathy, open-mindedness, and an appreciation for diversity. Stereotypes can limit aspirations and create unfair assumptions, so it is important to provide opportunities for discussion and reflection to break down these barriers. These scenarios are a range of examples, and teachers will use their professional judgment to determine which are appropriate for their specific class and year group. Our work on **British Values**—such as mutual respect and tolerance—and the **Protected Characteristics** under the Equality Act will guide these discussions. During our daily **collective worship**, we will use these moments to challenge stereotypes, explore different perspectives, and promote a culture of acceptance and inclusion.

The Boy in a Dress

"What would you think if a boy comes to school wearing a dress tomorrow?"

- Encourage discussion on why certain clothes are seen as "for boys" or "for girls."
- Discuss how different cultures have different clothing norms (e.g. kilts in Scotland, robes in some countries).
- Reinforce the idea that clothes don't define a person's abilities or personality.

Girls Playing Football

"A new student joins the football team, and it turns out she's a girl. How do you feel about that?"

- Challenge the idea that some sports are only for boys or girls.
- Discuss famous female footballers and athletes.
- Talk about fairness and inclusion in sports.

Stay-at-Home Dad

"Your friend's dad stays at home to take care of the kids while the mum goes to work. Is that strange changing gender roles in families?"

- Show that both men and women can take care of children and work outside the home.

The Scientist and the Nurse

"Imagine a scientist and a nurse. Who do you picture as the man and who as the woman? Why?"

- Challenge assumptions about job roles and gender.
- Show examples of male nurses and female scientists.

Different Abilities, Same Potential

"A new student joins your class who uses a wheelchair. How can we make sure they feel included in playtime?"

- Discuss ways to include everyone in activities.
- Talk about famous individuals with disabilities who have achieved great things.

The Toy Store Dilemma

"You go to a toy store, and all the dolls are in the 'girls' section, and all the cars are in the 'boys' section. What do you think about that?"

- Challenge gendered marketing of toys.
- Discuss how interests shouldn't be limited by stereotypes.

Different Family Structures

"Your friend has two mums, and another friend lives with their grandparents. Are all families the same?"

- Explore different types of families.
- Encourage acceptance and understanding of diversity in family life.

Speaking Different Languages

"A new student joins your class who speaks a different language at home. How can we make them feel welcome?"

- Discuss how being different is a strength.
- Encourage empathy and ways to communicate and include others.



RESPECTFUL



AMBITIOUS



RESILIENT