

Teacher's notes

It is important for people to know the difference between what is right and wrong, fair and unfair. Things can be morally right or wrong and these beliefs will differ depending on cultures, age and other social circumstances. It is important to highlight the potential differences.

It is also important for students to understand that there are certain things that are universally seen to be wrong i.e. stealing.

Right **could** be defined as the way to behave correctly within society.

Wrong **could** be defined as the way to behave incorrectly within society.

The difference between right and wrong can tell us:

- What to do and what we are allowed to do, e.g. share out toys
- What not to do e.g. do not hit other students

Examples of right and wrong

Right

- Being kind to your younger brothers or sisters
- Sharing your toys with friends and relatives
- Helping your mum with the washing up
- Doing your home work on time

Wrong

- Stealing your brother or sisters clothes
- Breaking other peoples toys
- Copying someone else's homework
- Bullying someone who is smaller than you
- Talking in class and disturbing other students

Rules are in place to stop people doing the wrong thing. Such as rules at school like;

No throwing stones

No bullying

These things would be seen to be wrong so there are rules in place to stop people from doing them. Some rules are in place to help people to know what is right or wrong.

What happens if people do things that are wrong?

- May have to apologise
- May get punished i.e. no pocket money, not allowed out
- For serious incidents like stealing, may get into trouble with the police.

Who decides what is right or wrong?

Historically we have developed an idea of what is right or wrong, and most people are aware of these things. I.e. it is right to pay for things and it is wrong to steal. It is right to help people but it is wrong to hurt people. It is right to drive a car with insurance and wrong not to.

Fair and unfair

The definition of fair or unfair isn't as clear cut as right or wrong. Many people will have different views on what is fair or unfair. However it is important that students grasp what their opinion of fair or unfair treatments are and how they make them feel.

Fair or unfair Examples

Fair

- During break time Jim lets all the boys play with his football equally.
- Everyone gets a turn to answer questions in class
- I have four sisters and we all get the same pocket money a week

Unfair

- Jim will let all the other boys play football but he never picks me.
- My teacher never listens to me, I am always trying to answer questions but she always picks some one else to answer it
- My sister is younger than me but she gets £5 more pocket money than me a week

How will it make students feel if they are treated unfairly? They may feel undervalued and left out.