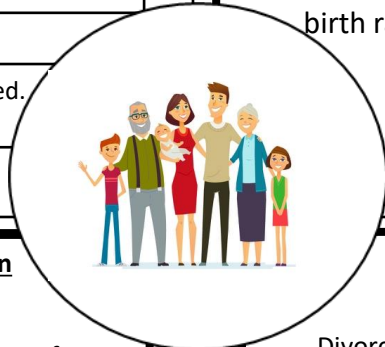


## Marriage and family life : Key Concepts

Word	Definition
Pre-marital sex (PREE - MARR - UH - TUHL)	Having sex before marriage
Contraception (KON – TRUH - SEP – SHUHN)	A way of intentionally preventing a pregnancy from occurring, e.g., Condoms and the pill.
Homosexuality (HOH -MUH - SEK – SHOO- AL -UH –TEE)	Sexual attraction the same sex/gender.
Marriage (MARR –IJ)	The legal union of two people.
Divorce (DUH-VAWS)	The legal termination of a marriage.
Cohabitation (KOH - HAB – UH- TAY- SHUHN)	When two people live together without being married.
Nuclear family – (NEW-CLEE- ER)	A family that consists of a male and female who are married with children.



## Marriage and family life– Key beliefs

Over the past 100 years family life has rapidly changed. Society no longer expects a nuclear family, it now accepts same sex couples, divorce, remarriage and single parents.

Changes have occurred for a variety of reasons including: the role of women in society, changes to the same sex marriage act (2014), the impact of the media and the decline in religion in favour of having no religious affiliation. Furthermore, people are waiting longer to start families to concentrate on their careers and contraception is effective, so families are becoming smaller, there is a decline in birth rate and there is an ageing population.

### The four purposes of a Catholic Marriage

**Life giving** – the man and woman are to procreate and fulfil Gods task of being fruitful.

**Life long** – the man and woman are joined together until one of them dies.

**Permanent** – once married the man and woman can never separate. It is an irreversible action

**Exclusive** – the marriage is between the man and woman only. Nobody else, ever.

*A man leaves his parents and becomes one when he joins with his wife* – Genesis  
*Be Fruitful and multiply* – Genesis 1



### Religious attitudes to contraception

#### **Roman Catholic**

Roman Catholics do not allow the use of contraception as it preventing a potential life. This goes against being fruitful and also the sanctity of life.

#### **Church of England**

Allow the use of some contraception. This is because they do not think preventing a fertilised egg from implanting itself is classed as murder. God also gave humans free will to make their own choices.



*'God is the only one who can give or take away life'* – The sanctity of life (Church teaching)

### Religious attitudes to divorce

#### **Roman Catholic**

Divorce is completely unacceptable under every circumstance. No one can break what God has joined. There can be an annulment in the case of forced marriages.

#### **Church of England**

Will allow divorce if it is the lesser of two evils. They also believe in forgiveness and second chances. People should be offered another chance at marriage.



*'What God has joined; no man shall separate'* – Matthew 19

### Religious attitudes to homosexuality

**Roman Catholic** – Sex's purpose is for making children only. Therefore, a same sex, sexual relationship can not be allowed.

**Evangelical Christians** – Homosexuality is a choice and a sin that can be forgiven and cured through repentance.

**Liberal Christians** – There are a lot of rules in the Bible that some people do not follow as they are outdated. Any of those regarding homosexuality are included in this category. God loves everyone, equally.



*'Be Fruitful and multiply'* – Genesis 1