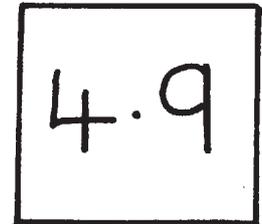
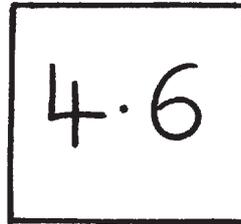
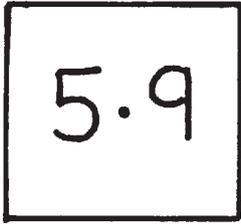


What others think

Biblical Material: Proverbs 29.25

'It is unwise to worry about what others think of you: it's safer to trust God.'



You will need:

Some pieces of card cut to represent the score cards which were once used by judges in ice skating competitions.

Introduction

Talk about ice skating and how the judges award marks. Skaters are marked out of six rather than ten. Six is a perfect score. The skaters are judged by experts and the scoring depends on their judgement. Note: with younger children leave out the decimal points.

Core Material

In life, there is no panel of experts who can hold up cards to tell people how they are doing: whether their behaviour is good or bad. Describe a few situations to the pupils and ask them to award marks from 1-6. An example would be, 'A person comes into school late because they overslept, but tells the teacher the bus was late.' Explain that 1 is a low mark and 6 is high.

It is right to take notice of trustworthy people when thinking about how to behave, but Christians believe other people's judgements are not enough on their own - they might be wrong. Read the Biblical Material. If you only rely on other people to guide you in life, you could end up constantly changing your actions to suit others as this story demonstrates.

Once an old man and a young man set out to go to market with their donkey. The young man rode the donkey, the old man walked beside it. 'What a selfish young man,' said one person, so the young man got off and let the old man ride. 'What an inconsiderate old man,' said the next person. So they both got on the

donkey. 'What cruel people overloading that poor donkey,' was the next comment. The two men looked at each other and got off the donkey. 'What stupid people: fancy having a donkey and both walking!' commented a passer-by.

Worrying about other people's opinions, can lead to people being swayed first one way, then the next. Christians believe that what really matters is what God thinks. People should do what is right even if other people do not agree.

Prayer/Reflection

Pupils can hold up the score cards as the prayer is read.

1 out of 6. *There are times when we all deserve a score of 1. Forgive us when we fail, Lord.*

3 out of 6. *Sometimes we achieve a 3. We try hard, Lord, but know we can improve with your help.*

6 out of 6. *Nobody is perfect, Lord, but we know you rejoice in our progress.*

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.