

# Media manipulation

Year: Y6

## Subjects and Issues

◆Body Image ◆Building self-esteem ◆Bullying ◆Stereotypes ◆Relationships Education (formerly SRE or RSE) ◆Relationships

## Introduction

Read the story *What Happened to Cinderella Next*, and go through the questions.

What conclusions do the class come to?

## Activity 1 - Media Manipulation

Watch the Dove Confident Me, Evolution clip (find link in Resources needed area). Play it twice.

In groups discuss how you feel about the way the media plays around with the image (media manipulation). Think about the 'before' and 'after' images.

Is it real?

Is it true?

What do you think about this?

How might it make a person feel about themselves?

What type of people do these images tend to show most of the time? [perfect, even coloured skin, slim or underweight, what society sees as 'pretty' at the moment, tall]

What types of people do we rarely see? [possible examples: different races, girls wearing a hijab, short, larger than size 14, transgender, spotty, disabled, gay or lesbian.]

Write a group statement on how you feel about media manipulation. Display it in class to remind people to look out for it.

## Activity 2 – Challenge it!

The class is to organise a *Challenge Gender Stereotyping* event.

In groups of 5/6 the children decide on an issue (e.g. use of stereotypical colours).

They then work out an event (e.g. for one day the boys will wear to school sparkly, pink etc. T-shirts and the girls will wear football, blue T-shirts).

Each group will present their idea to the class. Once all the presentations have been heard, the class votes for which one they will adopt.

Allow time for the groups to plan their event. Decide whether to limit it to class/year group, or extend to cover the whole school later, either through everyone taking part on the activity or through sharing it in an assembly.

## Plenary

Emphasise that what we see in the media is not always what it seems and this can influence us to feel a certain way. Can the class think of any other images that try to manipulate their feelings?

## Extension (optional)

Carrying out the *Challenging Gender Stereotyping* event organised by the class forms the extension activity for this lesson plan.

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## Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- Define what is meant by the term stereotype;
- Recognise how the media can sometimes reinforce gender stereotypes;
- Recognise that people fall into a wide range of what is seen as normal;
- Challenge stereotypical gender portrayals of people.