



# PSHE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

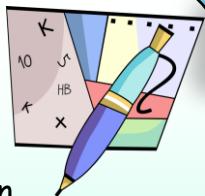
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Strand:  
Relationships  
+ Sex Education



## Key Terms:

**Traditional Family Unit**  
A group of one or more parents and their children living together as a unit.



**Comprehensive definition of family:**  
Any of various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family

## UK Family Statistics:

Married or civil partner couples remain the most common family type in 2019, they represent two-thirds of families in the UK; Northern Ireland (72.6%) has the highest proportion of married or civil partner couples and the lowest proportion of cohabiting couples (9.4%).



There were 2.9 million lone parent families in 2019, which is 14.9% of families in the UK; London has the highest proportion (19.1%), while the South West of England (10.9%) has the lowest.

In 2019 there were 212,000 same-sex families in the UK, having increased by 40.0% since 2015. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 legalized same-sex marriage in England and Wales from 13 March 2014 and from 16 December 2014 in Scotland.

## PSHE topic in focus: Different types of family units

**SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY** These are families where only one adult looks after the family. People raise children in single parent families for lots of different reasons, including relationship breakdown; divorce; death of a partner; a partner having to work in another country, and many more. Some adults choose to be single parents from the start, when they are planning a family. There are around 2 million single parents in the UK today.

**NUCLEAR FAMILY** This is the term for the 'traditional' family structure, which consists of a mother, a father, and their children. The parents in a nuclear family are usually a married man and woman, and their children are biologically theirs. There are not as many nuclear families in the UK today as there used to be, but it is still a very common family structure.

**SINGLE-SEX FAMILY** These are families where the parents are in a homosexual relationship (both parents are the same sex). The parents may be married or in a civil partnership, or they may be living together in a committed relationship. The children in a same-sex family may be biologically related to one of their parents, or they may be adopted. Although same-sex families are quite new in mainstream society, research shows that children from same-sex families have very similar lives compared to children from nuclear families.

**STEP AND BLENDED FAMILIES** These are families where at least one of the parents already has a child from a previous relationship. Stepfamilies are sometimes called blended families. Even though there can sometimes be problems with two families coming together to form a new family, children in stepfamilies often find that they benefit from having more adults and siblings in their family.

**EXTENDED FAMILY** These are families where the adult or adults who are taking the role of parent are actually a different relative, for example grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. The children in an extended family might live with their wider family including their parents, or with particular members of their wider family alone. Children might live with their extended family for a number of reasons, including: financial reasons; cultural traditions; a family member's care needs, and many more.

**ADOPTED FAMILY** These are families where the parent or parents are not biologically related to their children. The parents have chosen to legally adopt their children, which is a permanent and official process, meaning that the adoptive parents are fully responsible for looking after and raising the children. Many children who are adopted have been in the care system first.

**FOSTER FAMILY** These are families where the children are being looked after by foster parents for a particular length of time. Foster parents are adults who are not related to the child. They are paid by the government to look after children whose biological parents can't look after them. Children in foster families are given a safe place to live and develop, with the aim of getting them back into their original families if possible, or into a more permanent family. There are around 55,000 foster families in the UK.



## Need help, support or more information?

NSPCC Helpline:  
0800 800 5000  
(24 hours, every day)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Childline Helpline:  
0800 1111  
(24 hours, every day)  
<https://www.childline.org.uk>

Family helpline:  
0800 800 2222  
Or [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk)



If you have been a victim of a sex-crime or assault (remember if you are under 16 you cannot give legal consent) you can ring the police - 999

Fantastic helpline directory:  
<https://www.gettingiton.org.uk/useful-contacts>