The James Hornsby School

Together we excel

- Everyone has the right to be heard and respected.
- We will use language that won't offend or upset other people.
- We will use the correct terms, and if we don't know them, we'll ask the teacher.
- We will comment on what was said, not the person who said it.
- We won't share our own, or our friends', personal experiences.
- We won't put anyone on the spot, and we have a right to pass.
- We won't judge or make assumptions about anyone.

Routes to parenthood

Do now - baseline assessment

What are the different ways in which a person can become a parent? Make a list in your books.

Rachel and Steven

Rachel and Steven have been together for many years. They spent their 30s focusing on their careers, spending time socialising with friends and family and travelling as much as possible. Now both 40 years old, they feel ready to start a family. However, they have been trying to conceive for over a year and have not fallen pregnant.

I think that Rachel and Steven could try... because..

Oliver and Zane

Oliver and Zane spend a lot of time with their nieces, nephews and friends' children; they love kids of all ages and agree that now is the time to start a family of their own. They just aren't sure where to begin!

Graham

Graham has always wanted children of his own and is keen to start a family. He thought he would have a partner by now, but he has not found someone he would like to have a family with. He has decided to raise a child alone instead.

Asha and Chidi

27-year-old Asha and 25-year-old Chidi want a large family and recently bought a family-sized home together. Although their families keep asking when they are going to get pregnant, they are not sure whether they should wait a few years before they start, as they are both doing really well in their respective jobs.

Lian

Most of Lian's friends have children and she feels like she might be missing out. She knows she won't be fertile forever so thinks she should act now. However, she is not in a relationship and isn't sure children are really for her.

Mariam and Zara

Mariam and Zara would like to have children. Zara has always wanted to carry a child herself and Mariam is very supportive of this, but they are not sure if that's a possibility or what their other options might be.

1. **Decide not to have a child —** *People choose not to have children for many reasons including: no desire to be a parent, impact on lifestyle, cost of raising a child, impact on overpopulation/climate change, responsibility of raising a child, impact on quality of life, mental or physical health concerns. Childlessness at age 30 has increased — nearly half (49%) of women born in 1989 (who turned 30 in 2019) were childless*[1].

2. **Natural conception** — *Around 1 in 7 couples may have difficulty conceiving naturally. About 84% of couples will conceive naturally within a year if they have regular unprotected sex (every 2 or 3 days).*

3. **Intrauterine insemination (IUI)** — *This may be performed with a partner's sperm or donor sperm (known as donor insemination), e.g. in the case of people who need donated sperm but have no female fertility problems. It is less invasive than IVF, but its success rate is lower.*

4. **In vitro fertilisation (IVF)** — *IVF is a more invasive procedure than IUI, but has a higher success rate. There is greater control with IVF as the fertilisation of the egg can be checked and the best embryo(s) can be selected to be put back in the uterus. This can be performed with partner's sperm or donor sperm, own eggs or donor eggs.*

5. **Co-parenting** — *Co-parenting arrangements can be made between two single people, a single person and a couple, or two couples. If people decide to co-parent, each person may have their own partner, so it is possible that a child has more than two parents or carers. However, in the UK a child can only have two legal parents, even if more adults are involved in their up-bringing. For further information visit https://www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/parenting-rights/%E2%80%8Bco-parenting-0.*

6. **Adoption** — *People aged 21 or over can adopt (there is no upper age limit) and can be single, married, in a civil partnership, an unmarried couple (same sex and mixed sex), or the partner of the child's parent. There are different rules for private adoptions, adoptions from abroad and adoptions of looked-after children.*

7. **Fostering** — *To become a foster parent, a person must be: at least 21 years old, a UK resident or have indefinite leave to remain, be able to take care of a child or young person, often on a full-time basis. The length of a foster placement can range from one night to many years, or until the child is an adult.*

8. **Surrogacy** — *Surrogacy is legal in the UK, but it is illegal to advertise for surrogates. No financial benefit other than reasonable expenses can be paid to the surrogate. Surrogacy can be a route to having a child biologically related to the father.*

9. **Egg freezing** — *in 2016, just 18% of IVF treatments using someone's own frozen eggs were successful. There are many reasons someone may choose to freeze their eggs, including having medical treatment that may cause infertility (e.g. chemotherapy). For more information please visit: www.hfea.gov.uk/treatments/fertility-preservation/egg-freezing/.*

Adoption and fostering

Adoption is a way of becoming the legal parent of a child who cannot live with their birth family. It is permanent and you become a legal guardian. Many people can adopt. Some people choose to adopt over having biological children in order to give vulnerable children a loving home. You can adopt if you:

- are over 21 - there is no upper age limit
- are married, single or living with a partner of any gender
- have somewhere to live – whether rented or owned
- are in reasonable health
- have enough energy to care for a child during their dependent years
- have finished any fertility treatment
- have been a non-smoker for six months
- have lived in the UK for at least a year
- If you have no children
- If you have a child/ren that are 3 or over

It can cost between £4,000 and £9,000 to apply to adopt a child.

Fostering is when you temporarily care for a child to provide them with a safe and stable home. This temporary care can last forever! The foster family will share parental responsibility with the local authority (council) and birth parents for the child. All sorts of different children need foster care, including teenagers, babies, children with disabilities and sibling groups. It might be because their family isn't able to look after them or there is a problem at home. Some children have experienced trauma or have been separated from their families. Local authorities decide when a child can't stay with their family. For example, Essex County Council are responsible for all the children in care in Essex. They help decide if children need foster care and then they match them with suitable families to give them the best possible outcome.

Typically, fostering has a much higher demand than adoption. There are around 75,000 children and young people in foster care in the UK – and around 6,800 of these children still need a foster home. On the other hand, with adoption, there are around 6,000 children in need of adoption each year – showing that there is much higher demand for foster carers to help change a young person's life. Foster carers are paid by the local authority for the care they provide, this money covers expenses like food and clothes.

Adoption and foster care

1. Summarise the differences between adopting and fostering
2. Outline the pros and cons of adopting
3. Suggest what the pros and cons of fostering are

Who can
FOSTER?