

HAVE YOUR SAY CLIPS – CONFLICTING RESPONSIBILITIES

The audio resources explore those occasions when we feel pulled in different directions because we realise that we have conflicting responsibilities. The drama focuses on a policeman who is attempting to juggle a range of responsibilities – to his wife and her ageing parents, to his daughter, to himself and, through his busy occupation, to the public.

Before using the audio resources:

The exploration in this session concerns personal choices. Display three key words on your board: 'choice', 'dilemma' and 'responsibility'. Use the group's suggestions to write definitions of each.

Using the audio resources:

1. Discussion. What does 'conflicting responsibilities' mean? What are the occasions when we feel pulled in two directions? What experience do the children have of this feeling? What did they choose to do? Did they subsequently feel that they had made the right choices?

2. Listen to Voxpops 1. See below for a transcript.

Listen to Voxpops 1 either to help promote discussion/consideration or to reinforce children's ideas already expressed. In the audio the children talk about occasions when they have felt torn between two choices.

3. Drama, part 1. See below for a synopsis.

Introduce the first part of the drama and remind the children to listen carefully because soon it will be their opportunity to discuss what happens. The presenter names each character at the start of the drama. They are:

Jim – a police officer

Spike – his colleague

Dawn – also a police officer (only heard on the police walkie-talkie)

Michelle - Jim's wife

Karen – Jim/Michelle's daughter

You may wish to display a suitable image to act as a focus while listening to the drama. Use the online resources to display a large version of a police car. Display this during the first part of the drama.

4. Discussion. At the end of Drama, part 1 discuss/consider the following:

Should Jim and Spike go to the suspected robbery?

Or should Jim insist that he's off-duty so that he can go to Karen's judo competition?

How may Karen feel if Jim fails to show up at the competition?

How important is Jim's promise to Karen that he'll attend?

What will happen if Jim keeps his promise to Karen but fails to attend the suspected robbery?

5. Voxpops 2. See below for a transcript.

As preparation for the second part of the story you may wish to listen to some more responses from other children. In Voxpops 2 the children give a mix of responses to Jim's dilemma, suggesting what he should do.

6. Drama, part 2. See below for a synopsis.

Explain that it's time to listen to the second part of the story, in which we'll find out what Jim actually chose to do...and will find out about the consequences.

Use the online resources to display a judo competition. Display this during part 2 of the drama.

7. Final discussion.

At the end of Drama, part 2 discuss the following:

What does the way the story ends tell us about Jim's work and the effects it has on his family?

What can he do to make things better?

Do you think he should take the promotion he's been offered for which he's been working so hard?

Would it help the family...or do you think it would cause extra strain?

8. Have your say!

When you've discussed/considered the questions above please use the [Contact us](#) page of the School Radio website to let us know what you think about the story.

CURRICULUM LINKS, FOLLOW-UP, AND WEB LINKS

The significance of the theme:

The main dilemma in the programme is faced by Jim, the police officer. His situation links to objective 2) d:

...that there are different kinds of responsibilities, rights and duties at home, at school and in the community, and that these can sometimes conflict with each other...

However, the exploration of the relationships between Jim and his daughter and wife also link to a variety of other objectives - making this perhaps the most wide-reaching of the dramas – and in particular:

4) a: ...that their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and to try to see things from their points of view...

4) c: ...to be aware of different types of relationship, including marriage and those between friends and families, and to develop the skills to be effective in relationships...

Follow-up activities:

Find out about the work of the local police force and invite a representative to come to speak to you (each force has a dedicated education liaison officer able to speak on a wide range of issues). There is also a new government initiative regarding neighbourhood policing, with an emphasis on working with the local community in policing matters.

How does the story continue? We leave the action with Jim discovering that his daughter has been involved in a break-in at the local shopping centre. How will this situation resolve itself? How would the group like it to resolve? Write out another scene or two showing how the story might continue.

There are plenty of opportunities to continue exploring the situation through drama – for example, 'hotseat' about how he feels. One member of the group takes on the role of Jim and sits in the middle of the circle. The others question him about how he feels and what he is going to do. Other members of the group take turns adopting Jim's role.

Additional information:

Find out about your local constabulary by locating their website. For example, for Cambridgeshire:

www.cambs.police.uk/

Information about 'Young offenders' from the [Criminal Justice system website](#).

TRANSCRIPTS AND SYNOPSES

Voxpops 1 transcript:

I've been torn in two different directions before because I've got two lots of really good friends, but they don't like each other...and one's come round and I've said I'm going to play out with the others...so I don't know who to play out with.

My friend wanted me to sleep at her house on Friday...but then I wanted to go to a disco...but I didn't know which one to choose.

When I was just about to go out on my bike my mum said to me 'You have to do your homework' and I said 'OK I'll do my homework'...so I did my homework...and then I was just about to go out again and then she said 'Oh! The lawn's in a state - can you do the lawn?'

My Nan and my Grandma live opposite each other, so when you go in the car you don't know which one to visit first...you feel really torn.

Drama, part 1 synopsis:

The presenter sets the scene. As the drama begins two police officers, Jim and his partner Spike, arrive in their police car at the scene of a break-in.

Scene 1.

Jim and Spike arrive at the crime scene – a shopping centre – and run in search of the criminal. A message from their colleague, Dawn, over the walkie-talkie informs them the criminal has been apprehended on the other side of the shopping centre. As they return to their car Spike congratulates Jim that the successful outcome will support his prospects of promotion. Spike suggests they go for a pint later to celebrate; but Jim is reluctant (he's anticipating a difficult conversation at home with Michelle).

Scene 2.

Later the same day at Jim's home. Jim returns from work. He's not sure how Michelle will react to his news, but finally plucks up courage to let her know that he's put in for promotion. He says it will be good for the family: more money, perhaps less hours, more time with the family. But Michelle doesn't agree: she thinks that more than likely it will mean moving away from the area which would affect her relationship with her ageing parents and disrupt Karen's schooling (Karen is their daughter).

Karen comes in and Jim promises to make sure he comes to her judo competition the following day. But Michelle is upset and leaves angrily.

Scene 3.

The following day and Jim and Spike are back in the squad car. They're about to end their shift so that Jim can get to Karen's judo competition. Suddenly they are alerted to a suspected break-in happening close by. Jim is reluctant to respond to the call – they're going off shift. But Spike urges Jim to consider that they are the closest unit to the incident.

Jim has a dilemma – whether to follow his duty to the public or his duty to his daughter. How will they respond?

Cont'd over...

Voxpops 2 transcript:

I don't think he should go to the robbery, I think he should go home...because he's going to make Karen happy taking her to judo...and he's going to make his wife happy.

I think he should go and catch the robbers, rather than his daughter's judo lesson...because if he doesn't catch the robbers the world won't be safe and more break-ins will happen.

I don't think he should bother with the robbery because he actually promised his daughter that he would go and if he doesn't show up she's not going to trust him anymore.

I reckon if he goes catching the robbers he'll feel upset about his daughter...and if he goes to judo with his daughter he'll probably think 'What's happened to that robber?'

I think because he's finished his shift...it should be the policemen's job who are on shift now...and he's already said to his daughter that he would do that...so I think he should keep with his promise.

Drama, part 2 synopsis:

The presenter sets the scene again. We're going to find out what decision Jim made.

Scene 4.

Jim and Spike have taken part in another successful operation. But Jim doesn't feel like celebrating: he's missed Karen's judo competition and knows he will have to justify himself to Michelle and Karen.

Scene 5.

Jim's home, later the same day. Jim is being chastised by Michelle for breaking his promise to Karen. Michelle feels he has let Karen down and reveals for the first time that she's worried about Karen – about the friends she keeps and also school has asked them to come in for a chat.

Karen returns. At first she won't speak to her father. Then she reveals that she won the competition. Jim and Michelle are clearly proud of her achievement, but it's too late for Jim to make amends. Karen leaves to meet her friends – 'the people who care about me'.

Scene 6.

A few days later and Jim and Spike are on patrol again. Jim has been offered promotion but isn't sure if he'll take it - it would mean being based several hundred miles away. They're called to another disturbance and set off in response.

Scene 7.

Out of the car now they approach unnoticed two hooded figures who they believe are responsible for a break-in. Once they are close enough they try to apprehend the youths but one escapes. When they pull back the hood of the one they have caught they make a shocking discovery: it is Karen. Jim can hardly believe it's his own daughter and asks what she's doing. Karen, who clearly feels neglected by her father, responds by asking why he would care.