# That is such a stereotype!

## **Year: Y4**

### Subjects and Issues

Being Yourself Building self -esteem Media influence Stereotypes Relationships Education (formerly SRE or RSE) Keeping Safe Gender Expectations

## Introduction

Ask children to close their eyes and picture:

1. A child climbing a tree. What is their gender?
2. Someone modelling clothes. What is their gender?
3. A doctor. What is their gender?
4. A newborn baby boy. What colour clothes is he wearing?

A lot of us said that a boy would be climbing the tree. That the model would be female, thin and white. That the doctor would be male and white. That the baby boy would be wearing blue.

Why did we think these things? Where do we see or hear them? [family, friends, the media: TV, radio, adverts, social media, magazines, films.]

These are called ***stereotypes***. A stereotype is when we think one way of being fits all situations. E.g boys always wear blue, not other colours and certainly not pink! Why not pink? – because it is a girl’s colour (another stereotype). In the 18th Century (Georgian times) it was normal for boys to wear pink.]

Think of the story of Snow White and name the stereotypes in that story.

Now think of the Disney film Frozen. How does it change the stereotypes? – 2 female lead characters, strong, clever, the love in the film is about sisters, a weak male character who doesn’t save everyone.

### Activity 1 – Headlines

In pairs, using the Headlines worksheet, cut a piece of A4 paper in half. One child of the pair will draw the stereotype suggested by the headline. The other child in the pair will draw the opposite of the stereotype. Put the two halves back together again. Stick the headline across the top.

### Activity 2 – Headlines continued

Having collected some free newspapers, (e.g. Metro) or asked the children to bring some papers in from home, look through them for evidence of stereotypes. Some children could also spend time using the class laptop or tablet and look at online versions of the newspapers for evidence of stereotypes (most families now access their news online rather than via newspapers).

### Plenary

Cut out some found examples of stereotypes and make a display in the classroom. Add words or phrases to show the opposite stereotype e.g University educated person from a migrant background, Size 18 supermodel.