

# Embryo Research Workshop Guide

The workshop should take about two hours; example timings are given.

**9.00 – 9.05** Introduction –Today we are going to be looking at the issue of embryo research. **Slides 1-4**

**9.05 – 9.45** Question to students: do you have any thoughts on what embryo research is?

**Collect responses and put up on white board**

**Show slide 5**

What do you think embryo research is for, why do people do it?

**Collect responses and put up on white board**

**Show slide 6**

What about the embryos used for research, what do you think they look like?

**Slide 7**

**Collect responses and put up on white board**

So – do you think this is an embryo?

Or this?

Or this?

**Slide 8**

**Slide 9**

**Slide 10**

For purposes of scientific research the government through its regulating body the HFEA [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority] does not allow an embryo to be used beyond the appearance of the 'primitive streak' or 14 days, whichever is earlier. **Slide 11**

A 14 day embryo looks like this

**Slide 12**

Why do you think some parties to the discussion use some of the other pictures?

**Collect responses and put up on white board**

As members of a society we gain a great deal of our knowledge from the media; Newspaper pictures, headlines and article, the TV and such like. In the newspapers we have a variety of headlines and pictures that represent embryo research or its purposes. **Slides 13-14**

In our society people have different views on embryo research. **Slide 15**

So what we are going to ask you to do now is to take the role of an advocate for a particular group of people, expressing the position on embryo research that you expect that group of people might take and why.

These groups will be the Church, Researchers and Medical Practitioners, the Government and Parents. We would like you discuss in your groups the views that you think your group might have and then chose a spokesperson to share those views in a joint discussion afterwards.

Slide 16

**9.45-10.15** Split into groups.

One adult or older student will lead the group discussion, keeping tudents focused on the topic and reminding them that they are not at this point expressing their own views, but trying to imagine and express the views of the group they are representing.

**10.15 – 10.40** Presentations from each group

**10.40 – 11.00** Whole class discussion – including, how does society reconcile these differing views and who should be the final arbiter of what research goes ahead?

Please show slide 17 at the end.