



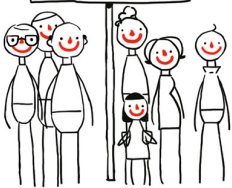
This Religious Education unit follows on from previous religious studies, comparing and contrasting the variety of faiths children have learned about in KS1 and KS2 with the Humanist philosophy. This unit will help children to develop an understanding of many of the commonly agreed beliefs and values shared by Humanists and the questions and debates that go on within Humanism itself.

Key knowledge

- Humanists believe human beings are special and human life is valuable.
- Humanists may believe that there is no god, or may believe that people can never know for sure, but believe that people should lead full and happy lives, and help others to do the same.
- Humanists don't believe there is any evidence for an afterlife: we should therefore make the most of this life.
- Humanists value investigation, questioning and scientific evidence-led approaches to thought and belief.



GOOD



- For Humanists the most important thing is not whether you believe in a god or not, but how you live your life.
- Humanists believe we can all live ethical, happy, and meaningful lives.
- Humanists believe that the world can be a better place if everyone tries to do the right thing.

Humanist values include :

Curiosity, brains, language, imagination, creativity, problem solving, empathy & kindness.

Links with other religions

Comparisons of Humanist celebrations and occasions (such as marriage) with similar religious ceremonies taken from all the religious unit studied in KS1 & KS2.



The similarity of Humanist ethics to most world religions—the desire to do good and be a positive influence to others.

Key Vocabulary

Humanism—a philosophy (way of thinking) which values the scientific method, and makes ethical decisions based on reason, empathy, and a concern for human beings and other animals.

Agnostic (without knowledge)—the belief that people cannot know for sure whether god/gods exist.

Atheist (without god) — the belief that there is no god/gods.

Afterlife—Humanists believe that there is no evidence for any form of life after death and so the important thing is to live life well, rather than in the pursuit of life or reward after death.

Curiosity—the desire to know and find out more.

Empathy—the ability to understand and share the feelings of others.

Personal Reflection

What is Humanism?

Why should people try to live a good life?

How could the Humanist philosophy help us to make the world a better place, whatever our own religious position?

