



Religious Education: Unit Overview- Humanism

Humanism Overview

What knowledge must the children acquire by the end of Year 6?

- Know that humanism is a positive philosophy which believes in living good and happy lives without the need for a god or gods
- Know that humanists believe that human beings are unique
- Know that humanists believe that our ability to question, reason, empathise and be creative is what makes us special and what we should value
- Know that humanists believe that how human beings have evolved and improved is what makes us special
- Know that humanists reject sacred texts and divine authority (deities)
- Know that humanists believe that science is the best way to understand the universe
- Know that humanists believe that all life on earth evolved from a common ancestor (evolution)
- Know that humanists are willing to change their beliefs if new evidence is found
- Know that humanists can be atheist or agnostic; they believe there is a lack of convincing evidence for a god or gods
- Know that atheists do not believe in a god or gods
- Know that agnostics believe you can't know whether god or gods exists or not
- Know that humanists believe that happiness is a worthwhile goal
- Know that 'The Happy Human' is a symbol of humanism.
- Know that humanists believe there are lots of ways of finding happiness and that we must respect different people's ways as long as they do not cause harm to others
- Know that humanists do not believe in an afterlife – 'the time to be happy is now'
- Know that humanists believe that human beings are responsible for their own destiny.
- Know that humanists believe that the natural world and the environment in which we live should be valued
- Know that humanists believe that relationships and companionship should be valued
- Know that humanists believe in the following moral values: kindness, compassion, fairness, justice and honesty.
- Know that humanists believe in The Golden Rule which means treating others in the way you want to be treated
- Know that humanists believe humans should be good to one another to promote happiness and avoid doing harm
- Know that humanists believe in accepting individual responsibility for our actions
- Know that humanists value and celebrate human life by marking key moments – birth, weddings, death
- Know that humanist naming ceremonies celebrate the arrival of a new baby and promise love and promise support from family and friends
- Know that humanist weddings celebrate the importance of human relationships and the need for love and support from other people
- Know that there is no special humanist festival but many humanists celebrate traditional festivals such as Christmas as a time to recognise the importance of



family, friendship and kindness.

Year 6

End of Unit Outcome:

To have an understanding of the Humanist faith and be able to make comparisons with the other faiths studied.

Opportunities for writing, oracy and mathematics:

Write an explanation of how a person's belief in afterlife may affect how they live their lives.

British Values Link

Individual Liberty: the right to believe, act and express oneself freely.
We will be learning about what Hindus believe. You may agree with some of what you learn but you may not agree with other parts. In Britain, we think everyone has the right to believe, act and express oneself freely. This is why it is so important that we learn about world religions because it enables us to better understand differences and also to celebrate aspects of life that other people value.
 Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.
Alongside people having the right to believe, act and express oneself freely, in Britain, we also think that we should respect and celebrate differences. Accepting differences is not enough, we should strive to understand differences so that we can understand how individual's personal identities are formed. Through learning about differences, we become better able to celebrate the diversity of Britain.

Resource:

Video clips are Humanists weddings, naming ceremonies and funerals

	Recap	New Knowledge: WHAT	HOW? I do, We do, You do
1	Recap on all the other faiths so far and any key beliefs. Cover Holy Books Houses of Worship Celebrations – Birth, marriage and death Gods Beliefs about afterlife		
2	Quick class quiz on whiteboards recapping last week's review.	Why do humanists believe human beings are special? How do Humanists decide what to believe? Why don't Humanists believe in a god or gods?	I do <i>Introduce the 5 things that are important to Humanists?</i>

			<p><i>Introduce the class to the argument why Humanists don't believe in Gods and the terms atheist and agnostic.</i></p> <p>We do <i>Record the 5 things that are important to Humanists. Write a definition for the words atheist and agnostic.</i></p> <p>You do <i>Complete the following sentence starters.</i> Humanists don't believe in God because ... Humanists don't believe in God but ...</p>
3/4	<p>Brain Dump Write down everything you have learnt about Humanism so far.</p>	<p>What are Humanists' views on happiness? How can we be happy? What do humanists value in life? Why do Humanists think we should be good to each other? How do humanists believe we can lead a morally good life? (2 weeks)</p>	<p>I do <i>Introduce Humanist views on happiness. Look together at the Humanist symbol. Why do Humanists believe you should be happy and how to be happy.</i></p> <p>We do <i>Think of ways to be happy. Think beyond the obvious. Look at the humanist views and ideas.</i></p> <p>You do <i>How do these beliefs affect how Humanists live their life?</i></p> <p><i>Complete the sentences.</i> Humanists believe you should be happy because ... Humanists believe you should be happy therefore ...</p>
5/6/7	<p>Cop and Robbers Recall as much as possible about different naming ceremonies in other faiths.</p>	<p>What are the special ways Humanists celebrate in their lives? What do humanist celebrations tell us about the things humanists value? (3 weeks)</p>	<p>Week 1 I do <i>Introduce how Humanists celebrate new life.</i></p> <p>We do <i>What does this tell us about the beliefs of Humanists and their values?</i></p> <p>You do</p>

			<p><i>What promises would you make to a new child at a Naming Ceremony? Complete this sentence.</i></p> <p><i>It is important for Humanists to celebrate new life because ...</i></p> <p><i>Week 2</i></p> <p><i>I do</i> <i>Introduce how Humanists celebrate marriage?</i></p> <p><i>We do</i> <i>How does this compare with traditions the children are familiar with or have experienced?</i></p> <p><i>You do</i> <i>Compare a Christian wedding (plus any other faith) with Humanist wedding. Use a Venn diagram to present.</i></p> <p><i>Week 3</i></p> <p><i>I do</i> <i>Introduce how Humanists celebrate end of life.</i></p> <p><i>We do</i> <i>What does this tell us about the beliefs of Humanists and their values?</i></p> <p><i>You do</i> <i>A Humanist funeral will be different to a religious funeral because...?</i></p>
8		Assessment	<p><i>Write an explanation of how a person's belief in the afterlife may affect how they live their life. Draw on knowledge from all faiths.</i></p>