

Knowledge and  
Understanding of  
Non-Religious  
Worldviews

KS1 – KS2



# Knowledge and Understanding of Non-Religious Worldviews

The outline of content here is adapted from suggestions in *Understanding Humanism* produced by Humanists UK. This is also available from [www.understandinghumanism.org.uk](http://www.understandinghumanism.org.uk) and in the West Yorkshire RE Resources Hub.

## Key Stage 1

Schools are required to include study of non-religious worldviews throughout all key stages. At KS1 this may be covered by including a non-religious dimension in a specific area of study, such as celebrating new life.

<p><b>General skill development</b></p> <p>In Y1 pupils should be able to: Recall, talk about and notice, respond to questions and talk about ideas.</p> <p>In Y2 pupils should be able to: Recall and name, retell and suggest meanings for and recognise similarities and differences.</p>	
<p><b>Beliefs and Meaning</b></p> <p>Including: Knowledge and belief; Meaning and purpose</p>	<p><b>Values and Society</b></p> <p>Including: Celebration and ceremonies; Non-religious ethics.</p>
<p><b>By the end of KS1 pupils could be able to:</b></p> <p><b>Knowledge and Belief</b> Talk about how beliefs may not be religious and what is meant by 'humanist'. Name the Happy Human as a symbol of Humanism.</p> <p>Talk about how <b>happiness</b> includes relationships, exploration, and achieving our goals.</p> <p><b>Meaning and Purpose</b> Talk about why <b>human beings are special</b>; what we share with other animals and what makes us unique. Notice our ability to question, to reason, to empathise and to be creative.</p> <p>Recognise how <b>human beings can improve our quality of life</b> and our understanding of the world, including human achievements in science, medicine, art, and society.</p>	<p><b>By the end of KS1 pupils could be able to:</b></p> <p><b>Celebration and Ceremonies</b> Notice how people, including humanists, may <b>celebrate special events</b>, such as the birth of a baby, with ceremonies that are not religious.</p> <p><b>Non-religious Ethics</b> Recognise the importance of <b>human relationships</b> and the need to give and receive for love and support from other people</p> <p>Suggest <b>reasons for being good</b> to one another; for promoting happiness and avoiding doing harm; for considering the consequences of our actions.</p> <p>Talk about the <b>Golden Rule</b> and the importance of empathy; taking care of other living creatures and the natural world.</p>
<p><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p>Empathy, Golden Rule, Happy Human, Science, Happiness, Relationships, Humanist, Humanism</p>	

## Key Stage 2

Schools are required to include study of non-religious worldviews throughout all key stages. This may be covered by including a non-religious dimension in a specific area of study, such as celebrations or tackling an ethical question. At KS2 and KS3 the curriculum should also include discrete coverage of Humanism or another non-religious approach to understanding life and belief.

<b>General skill development</b>	
In Y4 pupils should be able to: describe and make links; explain and give reasons; describe and show understanding; explore and describe similarities and differences; reflect and give examples. In Y6 pupils should also be able to: compare and contrast views; give a considered response; explain a range of opinions and give reasons; weigh up different points of view; summarise and apply a range of ideas.	
<b>Beliefs and Meaning</b>	<b>Values and Society</b>
Including: Knowledge and belief; Atheism and agnosticism; Meaning and purpose.	Including: Celebration and ceremonies; Humanist values; Non-religious ethics;
<b>By the end of KS2 pupils should be able to:</b>  Describe and explain how Humanists believe that the <b>material world</b> is the only one that exists and that there is no supernatural cause for its existence  Explain how Humanists believe that <b>human beings have evolved</b> , as other animals, contrasting this with a belief in divine creation.  Show understanding of how humanists believe that <b>human reason and evidence</b> rather than sacred texts and revelation are the key sources of knowledge.  Describe what is meant by <b>atheism and agnosticism</b> and how humanists believe that humanism is a positive philosophy enabling people to live good and happy lives without the need for a god or gods.  Weigh up the humanist principle of <b>respecting different ways of finding happiness</b> if they cause no harm to others.  Explore the <b>absence of belief in an afterlife</b> and the implication that the time to seek happiness	<b>By the end of KS2 pupils should be able to:</b>  Compare and contrast how non-religious people mark <b>key moments</b> in people's lives such as namings, weddings and funerals.  Explain and show understanding of Humanist beliefs in <b>shared human moral values</b> : kindness, compassion, fairness, justice, honesty.  Weigh up the belief that human beings alone can make the world a better place for everyone  Summarise some <b>principles of non-religious ethics</b> including: individual responsibility, the use of reason, empathy, compassion, and respect for the dignity of all. Give reasons for why the absence of religious texts may affect decisions.  Explore how the <b>Golden Rule</b> is a shared ethical principle, present in a wide variety of cultures throughout history and is a result of human evolution as a social animal  .

and meaning is in this life.

Consider how **human beings are responsible** for their own personal and communal destiny.

**Key Vocabulary**

Humanist, Humanism, Atheist, Agnostic, Afterlife, Secular, Compassion, Respect, Dignity, Ethics, Evolution, Human Rights