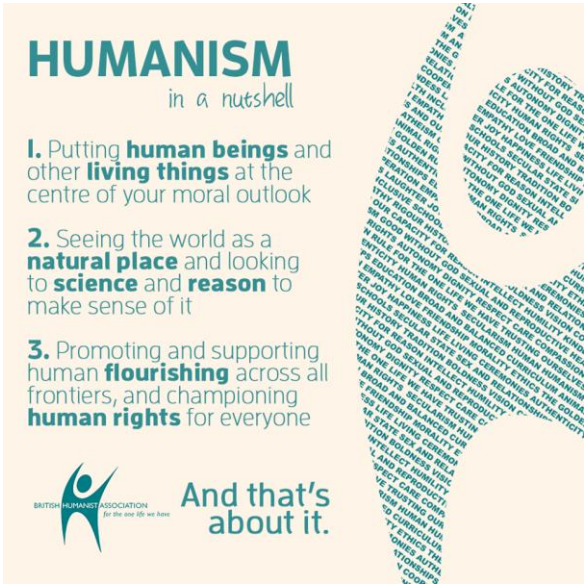
Religious Education

Year 5 – Humanism

What does it mean to be a Humanist in Britain today?

Key Vocabulary

atheist	A person who doesn't believe in the existence of God
theist	A person who believes in the existence of God
faith	A complete trust or confidence in someone or something
belief	An acceptance that something exists



Key Knowledge

- Humanists believe that the world and human beings have natural origins
- Humanists believe that this is the one life we have, so we should make thoughtful choices about how to live, in a way that helps us and others to flourish.
- The word humanist has come to mean someone who:

trusts to the scientific method when it comes to understanding how the universe works and rejects the idea of the supernatural (and is therefore an atheist or agnostic)

makes their ethical decisions based on reason, empathy, and a concern for human beings and other sentient animals

believes that, in the absence of an afterlife and any discernible purpose to the universe, human beings can act to give their own lives meaning by seeking happiness in this life and helping others to do the same.

Key Questions

What do most Humanists believe?

What religious beliefs do most Humanists choose to reject?

Why do Humanists value science and why they reject the existence of God?

How do Humanists put their beliefs and values into practice?

What motivates Humanists to do good in the world?

Humanists UK