

This unit explores how different religious and non-religious worldviews guide people in making moral decisions and living a good life. The unit builds on prior learning from Key Stage 1 and Year 3, deepening pupils' understanding of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Humanism. It introduces key concepts such as authority, conscience, and the Golden Rule, encouraging children to reflect on their own values and decision-making. Children reflect on the sources of guidance that religious and non-religious people may have in their lives. They will understand that people have been looking for guidance in their lives for many, many years.

By comparing religious teachings like the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Five Pillars of Islam with Humanist principles of reason and empathy, pupils learn that while beliefs may differ, many people share common goals: kindness, fairness, and respect for others. The unit fosters respectful dialogue, deep thinking, and personal reflection, helping children recognise both similarities and differences across worldviews. It culminates in an assessment that invites pupils to apply their understanding to real-life scenarios, demonstrating how beliefs influence choices and actions.

Lesson 1: Importance of Rules

Children explore what rules are, why they exist, and how they help people live together respectfully. They learn that rules often come from authority and are shaped by values like fairness and safety. The lesson introduces the Golden Rule as a shared principle across religions and Humanism. Children will begin to understand that rules guide behaviour and help build community.

Lesson 2: The Ten Commandments (Judaism)

Children learn that many Jewish people follow the Ten Commandments, which are found in the Torah and believed to be given by God to Moses. They explore the idea of a covenant and how these commandments shape relationships with God and others. Children will know that the Ten Commandments are religious rules that guide Jewish life and values.

Lesson 3: Jesus' Guidance in Christianity

Children are introduced to the Beatitudes—guidelines from Jesus about how to live a blessed life. They compare these with the Ten Commandments and learn about the Two Great Commandments: love God and love your neighbour. Children will understand that many Christians try to follow Jesus' teachings to live kindly, fairly, and with compassion.

Lesson 4: Rules in Islam

Children learn about the Five Pillars of Islam—five duties that help Muslims live a good life and stay close to Allah. Each pillar is explored simply, showing how they guide daily actions and moral choices.

Children will know that the Five Pillars are meaningful practices that support Muslim faith and behaviour.

Lesson 5: Humanism – Right and Wrong

Children discover that Humanists do not follow religious texts but use the Golden Rule, reason, and conscience to decide what is right. They reflect on how empathy and thoughtful decision-making help people live well and treat others with respect.

Children will understand that Humanists don't look to a God, but use shared values and personal responsibility to guide moral choices.

Lesson 6: Assessment

Children demonstrate their understanding of how different beliefs guide people to do what is right. They apply their knowledge to scenarios, comparing responses from different worldviews and reflecting on their own decision-making.

A key takeaway from this unit is that beliefs—religious or non-religious—help people decide how to act and treat others.

Key concepts: religion, belief, conscience, reason

Key vocabulary: commandment, neighbour, rule, guidance, pillar, conscience, reason, decision.