

Year 6 – Summer RE Knowledge Organiser

Topic: Why is it important to 'lead a good life'?

Links to other year groups: Y2 The teachings of Jesus, Y3 Special People: Moses, Y9 How do people make ethical decisions?

Key Vocabulary:

Beatitude - being highly blessed.

Conscience - the faculty said to enable us to make moral decisions, by giving us a sense of right and wrong.

Compassion - sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.

Ethics - moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity.

Empathy - the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Free will - the ability to act at one's own discretion. This results in having moral responsibility for our free choices.

Humanism - humanists do not believe in a god. They believe it is possible to live a good and fulfilling life without following a traditional religion.

Moral - concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour.

Rules - instructions or guidance about how to do something e.g., how to behave at school.

Secular - not connected with religious or spiritual matters.

Temptation - the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.

Universal - relating to or done by all people or things in the world or in a particular group; applicable to all cases.

How did it begin?

It is recorded in the Torah (Jewish holy book) that God gave Moses two stone tablets inscribed with the rules he wanted the Israelites to follow in the Promised Land. Later, described in the New Testament of the Christian Bible, Jesus tells his disciples the two most important commandments. Jesus also described how he wanted his followers to live in the Sermon on the Mount; this message is called The Beatitudes.

What is a 'good life'?

Most religions or worldviews have stories about people who set a moral example. Religions or worldviews provide guidance on how to live a good life. There are different ideas about why people should aim to live a good life and agreement and disagreement over virtues and qualities, what is right and wrong between and within groups.

The Golden Rule

The Golden Rule is the principle of treating others as one wants to be treated. Various expressions of this rule can be found in the beliefs of most religions and creeds through the ages.

Secular beliefs such as Humanism also try to embrace the moral principle of the 'Golden Rule'. This is also known as the ethic of reciprocity, which means we believe that people should aim to treat each other as they would like to be treated themselves – with tolerance, consideration, and compassion. Humanists like the Golden Rule because of its universality because it is derived from human feelings and experience and because it requires people to think about others and try to imagine how they might think and feel. It is a simple and clear default position for moral decision-making.

Today we all live by rules to ensure everyone can live together happily – e.g., school rules, the rules of the road, the Countryside Code, the rules of our country and international laws.

This is how we know right from wrong.



Important teachings:



The Beatitudes are a set of teachings and blessings that Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. They describe the foundation of the Christian faith. The purpose of the Beatitudes is to inspire Christians to live according to the traits Jesus describes.

