

Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
KS3 Additional Unit: In-Depth Study of another Religion or Belief System
(Humanism)



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The questions we might ask:

- *What are the key principles, beliefs and practices of Humanism?*
- *What sources of authority underpin a Humanist way of life?*
- *How do Humanists mark key events in life?*
- *What are atheism, agnosticism and secularism and how do they relate to humanist worldview?*

The ideas we might explore

- **Atheism, agnosticism, and secularism**
- The history of **atheism** and **humanism**
- Key principles: scientific worldview, rejection of the supernatural, making ethical decisions based on reason, empathy and a concern for humans/other sentient animals, lack of discernible purpose in the universe and no afterlife, so humans can give meaning to life by seeking happiness for themselves and others
- Key sources of authority: personal experience, scientific investigation, influential Humanist thinkers, e.g. Voltaire, Jeremy Bentham, G E Moore, Margaret Knight, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru, Gora
- Humanist practice: naming ceremonies, weddings, funerals and memorials
- Humanism in modern Britain: humanism and 'no religion'