

Values: what matters most? Exploring right and wrong with Christians and Humanists

Telford & Wrekin SACRE

Support for the Agreed Syllabus

This unit is one of a series of examples written for Telford & Wrekin SACRE and teachers of RE by consultant Lat Blaylock of RE Today Services. Contact Lat for support and guidance on the syllabus via email: <u>lat@retoday.org.uk</u>



TITLE: Values: what matters most? Exploring right and wrong with Christians and Humanists. Year 5

ABOUT THIS UNIT:

This unit enables pupils to identify values in human life, and think about their own values, with special reference to the values of Christians and Humanists. The unit uses a pedagogy of conceptual development. Teachers should plan to introduce the key concepts of the unit carefully and reinforce their use for learning through all the lessons.

The focus is on the ways in which stories communicate values, and the ways in which values make a difference to our lives.

Pupils are enabled, by various conceptual and active learning approaches, to think for themselves about questions to do with what matters in life. The unit works towards an understanding of the values people share, and the fact that not all values are shared.

Pupils are encouraged to consider what can be learned from Christian and Humanist ideas for themselves, and at every point to explore examples and teaching referring to their own values, in the light of other people's ideas.

Estimated time for this unit: 8+ hours. It is recognised that this unit may provide more teaching ideas than a class will cover in 8 hours. Teachers are invited to plan their own use of some of the learning ideas below, ensuring depth of learning rather than covering everything

Where this unit fits in:

This unit will help teachers to implement the Telford & Wrekin Agreed Syllabus for RE by providing them with well worked examples of teaching and learning about the theme of values that focus on goodness, truth, forgiveness, faith, honesty and similar values areas.

By using the concepts of Christianity and Humanism as they relate to values, and examples of stories that transmit and exemplify certain values, pupils will be enabled to clarify and apply their own values. This unit contributes to the continuity and progression of pupils' learning by taking ideas about religious and other stories from earlier units further. The skill of applying ideas for oneself is at the heart of the learning process.

The unit builds upon earlier learning about Christianity, and introduces pupils to Humanism in a clear and simple manner. The unit anticipates further studies of non-religious ideas and ways of life in RE.

KEY STRANDS ADDRESSED BY THIS UNIT

- Religious beliefs, teachings and sources
- Religious practices and ways of life
- Questions of values and commitments

ATTITUDES FOCUS: the unit provides opportunities for the development of these attitudes:

- Being able to develop their own sense of self as they becoming increasingly clear about the values by which they live
- Developing a willingness to learn from those who see things differently, increasing their ability to demonstrate respect for all.
- Engaging in positive discussion and debate about values, including the views they disagree with, to demonstrate open-mindedness

Contributions to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils:

This unit enables pupils to develop:

- **Morally** by thinking about values and studying stories that express values. Higher level work explores the consequences of our choices in terms of good and bad, right and wrong.
- **Socially** by working together in collaborative projects and activities. Higher level work explores how values make a difference to our community and to society the impact of morality.

EXPECTATIONS	I can
At the end of this unit	
Nearly all pupils will be able to (L2)	 Retell some simple stories of values Identify the values found in the stories Suggest meanings in the stories they study Respond sensitively to questions about their own values
Many pupils will be able to(L3)	 Describe the ideas of Humanists simply Describe some Christian and Humanist values simply Use vocabulary such as 'values' 'right and wrong' and 'good and bad' Make links between their own behaviour and the values they hold, and the values they study.
Some pupils will be able to (L4)	 Use a widening religious vocabulary to show that they understand similarities and differences between Humanist and Christian values Apply ideas about what really matters for themselves, including ideas about love, forgiveness, truth, consequences and honesty

ASSESSMENT SUGGESTIONS: A Possible final assessment task:

A formal assessment of each pupils work is neither required nor desirable for every RE unit. Continuing use of assessment for learning methods is best. Teachers can assess this work by setting a learning task towards the end of the unit. The task aims to elicit engaged and reflective responses to the material studied throughout the unit across the ability range. Suggested task:

Making a code for living

- Look together at some 'codes for living' that Christians and Humanists try to follow, such as the Ten Commandments or teachings of Jesus or ideas from the Humanist website about being 'good without god'.
- Ask pupils to create a code of living of their own, coming up with 5-10 sentences that would make good rules for a happier world. A simpler version asks for 'a happier Telford & Wrekin'.
- Ask pupils to discuss their first ideas with other pupils and refine them, coming up with ten (or less) good rules or ideas they all agree with. Ask them to give reasons for their choices. The 'Ten Commandments' were written on 'tablets of stone'. Give the pupils time and space to express their rules or ideas with dignity and high quality whether through art, calligraphy or ICT.

Gifted and Talented pupils:

To extend this work, ask pupils to make a list of similarities and differences between Humanist and Christian values, using some texts from Christian scripture and materials from the Humanism website. Consider with pupils what the impact of following these two different ways of life would be: what would happen in everyone in our school followed a Humanist way of life, or a Christian way of life? (This task asks for analytical skills and comparative skills in relation to the impact of values on life – level 5)

Pri	or learning	Vocabulary	Resources
lt v	vould be	In this unit, pupils	Teachers might use:
hel	pful if pupils	will have an	Web and texts:
ha\ ∎	Learnt that	opportunity to use words and phrases	 The British Humanist Association has a useful website for schools: <u>www.humanismforschools.org.uk</u> There are some good primary RE
-	-		
		right and wrongmorality	material
		valuesconsequences	Artefacts : religious artefacts for Christianity are available to purchase from: Articles of Faith (Tel: 0161 763 6232)
			Religion in Evidence / TTS (Freephone 0800 137525)]

Key questions	LEARNING	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES	WIDER LEARNING
	OBJECTIVES		Pupils to be able to say "I	OPPORTUNITIES /
	Pupils should learn:		can	POINTS TO NOTE
Do rules	To explore the	Who breaks the rules?	L2	
matter?	concepts of being	Ask pupils to choose three 'villains' from stories, films or TV series that they love.	I can respond sensitively	Concepts of naughty,
	naughty and being	What makes these people bad? What rules do they break? What does their breaking	to good and bad actions	good, bad, unkind,
Why?	good in terms of	of a code for living lead to?	in stories	will be used
	actions, words and	• Example: In Disney's 'The Lion King' Scar, the villain, is selfish, ambitious, and a liar.	L3	throughout the unit.
What is a	thoughts.	These things lead him to deceive his nephew, murder his brother and steal the	I can describe the ways	It is good to give
	To think about the	kingdom. You might show some short clips from films, discussing the impact of bad	kind and unkind actions make a difference to	them space here.
code for	idea of a code for	behaviour in particular.Ask pupils in pairs to make lists of 10 things they think are naughty. What are the	people's lives	Can children talk
living?	living and to examine	effects or consequences of these naughty things? Talk about what makes an action	L4	about the
-	whether they are	naughty. Note that 'naughty' actions, or words often hurt other people or animals. Do	I can apply ideas about	consequences of their
	living by a code	people sometimes hurt themselves when they are naughty?	naughty, nice, good and	actions – 'ifthen'
	themselves.	 Ask pupils whether there are such things as naughty thoughts. You might talk about 	bad behaviour for	
		whether jealousy, hatred, being greedy and so on start in our minds, and sometimes	myself, taking note of	
		lead to actions as well. Films again provide a reference point: the thought is often the	the impact of my actions	
		beginning of the deed.	on others	
		Talk about the ways that we make rules or principles to help us to be good. What		
		rules or principles do the children think make most people happy? Ask pupils to		
		suggest one rule for people to follow if they want a happier world, and make a		
		beautifully lettered 'rule card' out if it. These can be hung on a mobile in the		
		classroom or school entrance hall.		
		 Talk about the idea that a person often has a 'code for living' inside their head or 		
		heart that helps them to choose good things and say no to bad things. Make a collage		
		of a large figure of a person, and each child writes a line of 'code for living' to stick		
L		onto their head or heart.		

Key questions	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Pupils should learn:	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES Pupils to be able to say "I can	WIDER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES / POINTS TO NOTE
What codes for living do non – religious people use?	Begin to understand that not all people are religious, that non-religious people can have codes for living that don't refer to god, and that a person can be 'good without god'	 What is a Humanist? Discuss with the class the religions they know about, and ask: is everyone part of a religion? Many pupils in many classes are not. Explore the idea that for religious people they try to be 'good with God', but others think you can be 'good without god'. Introduce the work of the British Humanist Association to pupils. What do Humanists think is good? Ask pupils to think about these rules or principles: Be Honest Use your mind Tell the truth Do to other people what you would like them to do to you. Teach pupils that these are the kind of rules Humanists try to live by. Ask pupils if they can rank these rules – more important to less important, from one to four? hard to keep, easy to keep, rank from one to four? Are they actually all connected, and equally hard or important? Ask them: What would happen if everyone lived like this? What if everyone did the opposite of this? Refer back to the film clips: were any of the characters you looked at from Disney following Humanist values? How could you tell? Talk with the class about how values are often shared – Christians and Humanists have some values the same – and some different. 	L2 I can ask thoughtful questions about religious and non-religious ways of life L3 I can make links between religious and non- religious ideas. Some ideas are the same, but others are different. I can notice and describe the differences	As you would with two different religions, good pedagogy doesn't compare one way of life with another in ways that derogate one alternative. This needs careful handling in regard to Humanism

Key questions	LEARNING	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES	WIDER LEARNING
,	OBJECTIVES		Pupils to be able to say "I	OPPORTUNITIES /
	Pupils should learn:		can	POINTS TO NOTE
What can	To use dilemmas for	Class discussion to clarify ideas	L2	The concepts of
we learn	learning, noticing and	In a learning circle (10 is better than 30 if possible) each pupil gives their response to	I can respond sensitively	fairness, justice,
	reacting to difficult	the words fairness, justice, forgiveness and freedom. (e.g. justice is, freedom is).	to aspects of the drama	forgiveness and
from	cases of right and	 In groups consider a moral dilemma or issue which may have drawn from reports 	activity	freedom are central
discussion	wrong, good and	from the local press or from issues within school (e.g. a report on a court case		here. Teachers should
and	bad.	involving burglary, a bullying incident in the playground, an example of vandalism or	L3	introduce them
	- 1 11	cruelty to animals).	I can link up actions and	carefully
drama	To build up	 Discuss what happened and what the consequences were. What are the pupils' reactions to these 2 Why do they thick people acted like they did? Do they act like 	their likely consequences in our drama and	
about	understanding of the concepts of fairness,	reactions to these? Why do they think people acted like they did? Do they act like that? Why do they or why don't they act like that? What stops them? Was there	discussions	
good &	justice, forgiveness	justice involved? What choices (freedom) did those involved have?	uiscussions	
-	and free choice	 Introduce the idea of freedom of action. Each individual is free to choose how they 	L4	
bad, right	through speaking and	act in most situations, but the decision about what to do in any given situation is	I can use the vocabulary	
& wrong?	listening and drama	based on beliefs about the situation and the consequences of the action taken.	of justice, freedom and	
	work.		forgiveness to show my	
		A group drama improvisation activity	understanding of	
		 Give pupils in groups of 6-8 the opening to a dramatic situation: e.g. there is a robbery, or someone is hurt, or animal cruelty is discovered. Ask the group to discuss 	questions of value	
		the situation, and especially to think about good and bad reactions to it.		
		 Get the group to carry on the story through a simple drama, making up two different endings. One ending should show what happens if 'good rules' are kept. The other 		
		ending shows what happens if 'good rules' are broken.		
		The whole class can enjoy the performances of different groups. They might be		
		presented to other classes, perhaps younger KS2 pupils, in an assembly or through a		
		drama lesson.		

Key questions	LEARNING	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES	WIDER LEARNING
	OBJECTIVES		Pupils to be able to say "I	OPPORTUNITIES /
	Pupils should learn:		can	POINTS TO NOTE
What	To think carefully	Learning about Jesus' values from two texts from the Bible	L3	
codes for	about the Christian	Read with children the account of love for the neighbour that introduces the story of	I can make links between	This work links with
	ideas of values such	the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).	thoughts and ideas and	the literacy strategy.
living do	as love and	 Also read the account of the crucifixion, in which Jesus prays for forgiveness for those 	words and actions,	
Christians	forgiveness.	who killed him (Luke 23:32-35) Look at the two texts for similarities in Jesus' values.	suggesting how thinking	The two texts from
try to	To continue to think	Discuss what kinds of values Jesus wanted people to follow, and how he 'showed a methy' (se Christians halings)	can lead to action	Luke's gospel are
	To continue to think about the idea that	 path' (as Christians believe). Ask the class what the values of Jesus seem to be in the stories. Ask them for 	1.4	suitable for work on narratives or stories
follow?	values show in what	examples of thing Jesus did not value as well (this is often sharp and easy to answer)	L4 I can consider moral	from a different
	people do.	See if the pupils understand that the values of Christianity include love, forgiveness,	questions about whether	culture
	people do.	peace between people and God, honesty, prayer, worship and fellowship	there are 'bad thoughts'	culture
	To begin to	(togetherness).	and understand the	
	understand that the	(impact of ideas on	
	impact of our values	Values trees: roots and fruits	behaviour	
	can make people happy – or unhappy	 Talk first about actions and what leads up to actions – illustrate the idea that values or motives lead us to act with a story from school life. 		
		 Jesus often compared actions to fruits. The roots are down inside us, hidden thoughts 		
		and intentions, but what you do shows what you value. Ask pupils to create an image		
		of a tree, showing its roots, trunk, branches, and carrying fruits as well.		
		Write onto the fruits the words that they choose to represent good actions. Ask them		
		to think about what leads to good actions, and write some of these things onto the		
		branches, the trunk and the roots of their trees.		
		 In circle time, compare the different trees pupils have devised, and consider carefully 		
		the links between thoughts, words and actions.		
		 This activity could be done as a class display – each pupil making fruits for the values tree, which is a whole class piece of work. 		

Key questions	LEARNING	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES	WIDER LEARNING
	OBJECTIVES		Pupils to be able to say "I	OPPORTUNITIES /
	Pupils should learn:		can	POINTS TO NOTE
What can	To use a speaking	A values sorting activity.	L3	'Twenty One
we learn	and listening	Use a set of cards that list of 21 valuable things that include the values of	I can describe some	Valuable things'
	strategy to clarify	Christians and Humanists.	things Christians and	might include: Life
from a	the values that	Ask pupils in groups of three or four to sort out the cards into three groups of	Humanists might say	/ Safety / Sport /
values	matter most to	7:	are valuable	Music / Cleverness
game?	each pupil, and	a) things that really matter a lot,	L4	/ Friends / Family /
0	explore the fact	b) things that are quite valuable,	I can use concepts like	God / Love /
	that different	c) and things that don't matter to them.	'more important' or	Truthfulness /
	people have	Ask pupils to say why they have selected the ones that they put in the first	'less significant' to	Respect /
	different values.	group: what makes these things most valuable?	describe the impact of	Playstation /
		 Talk as a class about which five values a humanist would put in first group, 	values on life for	Kindness / Money /
		and why. And which five would the Christian put top of the list, and why. You	myself	Pets / Good food /
		could compile the answers to this on the whiteboard.		Water / Home /
		Ask pupils to complete a writing class that identifies their own five 'matters		Freedom / Holidays
		most to me' valuable things.		Forgiveness /
				celebration /
		A fun extension activity: Values Auction		church
		Use the same class groups, and give each group a pretend budget of £100.		
		They are to 'buy their own personality' at an auction. Teacher as auctioneer		
		sells off the 21 valuable things to the groups for the highest prices possible.		
		To prevent chaos, only allow one child from each group to bid out loud.		
		Others in the group can whisper advice. Fine offenders £1!		
		 Afterwards, consider together why so many of these values ideas are worth 		
		more than money.		

Key questions	LEARNING	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES	WIDER LEARNING
	OBJECTIVES		Pupils to be able to say "I	OPPORTUNITIES /
	Pupils should learn:		can	POINTS TO NOTE
Peace: is	To understand	Exploring one value that Christians and Humanists share	L3	Deepening
it more	more deeply that	Think about someone you know who is a peacemaker - take turns to name the	I can describe some	conceptual learning:
	peace is valued by	person and say why. Make a 'peace tree' Pupils write their ideas on leaves: "To	ways people try to	help pupils to see
valuable	both Humanists	make peace in the world I will We all should Nobody ought to"	increase peace	links between
than any	and Christians,	Invite a speaker from a charity to talk about how they bring 'peace' to others, the		concepts, asking
money?	but peace is not	symbol of their organisation, the work they do and why (e.g. NSPCC, NCH Action	L4	'can there be peace
	always easy to	for Children, The Salvation Army, OXFAM, Christian Aid). Ask the speaker about	l can use a wider	without freedom, or
	build.	how religious and non-religious people can co-operate for peace.	vocabulary to show my	without justice?'
	- 1	 Work with a collection of symbols from various organisations and discuss what they 	understanding of the	These hard ideas
	To deepen their	mean - make your own symbol for an organisation that works for peace.	idea of peace, and	often emerge from
	understanding of	 Plan and present a school assembly / celebration on the theme of peace using 	suggest ways to build	pupils work when a
	the impact of values on life.	symbols, songs, dance, music, art, readings studied / written in other lessons above.	peace in our society	'philosophy for children' approach is
	values off file.	 Pupils write their own peace meditation / prayer / song using a famous prayer / 		used for RE.
		song / poem as a model or frame (e.g. 'Make me a Channel of Your Peace' / 'The		useu joi kL.
		Lord is My Shepherd' / Give Peace a Chance / a Christmas carol, Ebony and Ivory).		
		Use this literacy task to explore non-fiction writing skills and adjective vocabulary.		
		 Collect the work together in a class book, celebrating the value of peace, and the 		
		pupils' achievements in RE.		
		Peace lovers, or peace makers?		
		• One Christian leader (Rev Jim Wallis) says that it is "more important to be a		
		peace maker than a peace lover": "We all say we love peace, but the world needs		
		more people who actually make peace." What does he mean? What peace		
		makers do the children know? How do they do it? Who can say who is the		
		peacemaker in their family? In the school? How do they do it? Can anyone be a		
		peace maker?		

Key questions	LEARNING OBJECTIVES Pupils should learn:	TEACHING AND LEARNING	LEARNING OUTCOMES Pupils to be able to say "I can	WIDER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES / POINTS TO NOTE
Can we create a code for living that will help the world?	To draw learning about values together and express ideas of their own about how values can make a community happier	 Making a code for living Look at some 'codes for living' that Christians and Humanists try to follow together, such as the Ten Commandments or ideas from the humanist website Ask pupils – working alone or in a pair – to come up with 5-10 sentences that would make good rules for a happier world. A simpler version asks for 'a happier town'. They may re-use ideas from Christian and humanist sources, but should also add their own ideas and expression. You might set this task 'on a desert island' to enable children to see that their own community is the one that they should think about. If you do this, then hide cards that say the pieces of moral code all around the drama space, and have them begin by finding them. Are they as useful as finding water and food? Maybe! Ask pupils to discuss their first ideas with other pupils and refine them, coming up with ten or less good rules or ideas they all agree with. Ask them to give reasons for their choices. The 'Ten Commandments' were written on 'tablets of stone'. Give the pupils time and space to express their rules or codes for living they would expect: what would help people to keep to these codes, and what would be the right thing to do to stop a person from breaking the codes for living? Note that both Christians and Humanists are a bit hostile to just 'keeping the rules' for their own sake. Both prefer the idea that choices are made out of love and respect, rather than just 'doing as they are told.' Consider why this is important with your G&T pupils! 	L2 I can respond to questions about values for myself with some sensitivity L3 I can describe some rules I think are good and make links between values and their impact or consequences L4 I can consider questions about rules for living for myself, applying ideas from Christians and Humanists for myself	This task can be used to assess pupils' progress if such an opportunity is planned, or can be tackled as a whole class.

Lat Blaylock 2014 © Telford & Wrekin SACRE