

## Humanism: EYFS to KS4

Luke Donnellan  
Director of Understanding Humanism  
@HumanismEdu



# CREative and REinspiring Annual RE Conference 2022

An inspiring day of RE CPD  
**'CREative and REinspiring RE Conference'**  
in conjunction with  
Wiltshire, Dorset and BCP SACRES



**S.A.C.R.E**  
Standing Advisory Council  
on Religious Education

**Wiltshire Council**

S.A.C.R.E

Enabled by Sarum St Michael Educational Charity:



#ReReRE2022



# WHAT IS HUMANISM?

A **non-religious** worldview

5 features

- The human being (natural, potential)
- Understanding the world (science)
- The one life (freedom, happiness)
- Humanist ethics (empathy)
- Society (responsibility)





Understanding  
Humanism

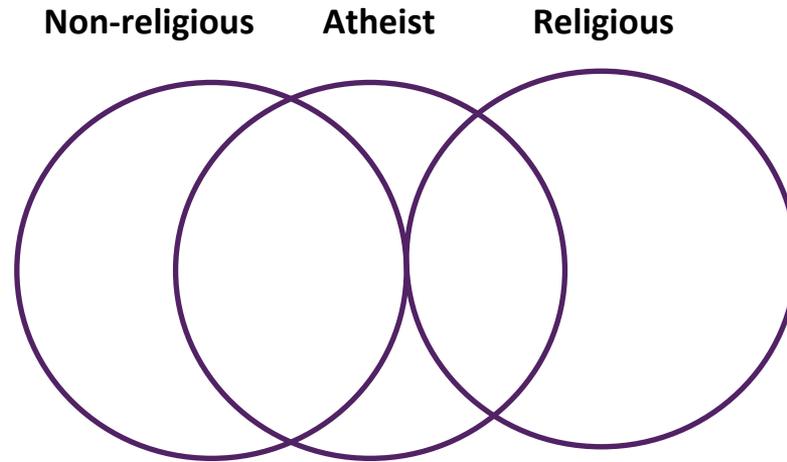
# NON-RELIGIOUS WORLDVIEWS



# Non-religious worldviews?



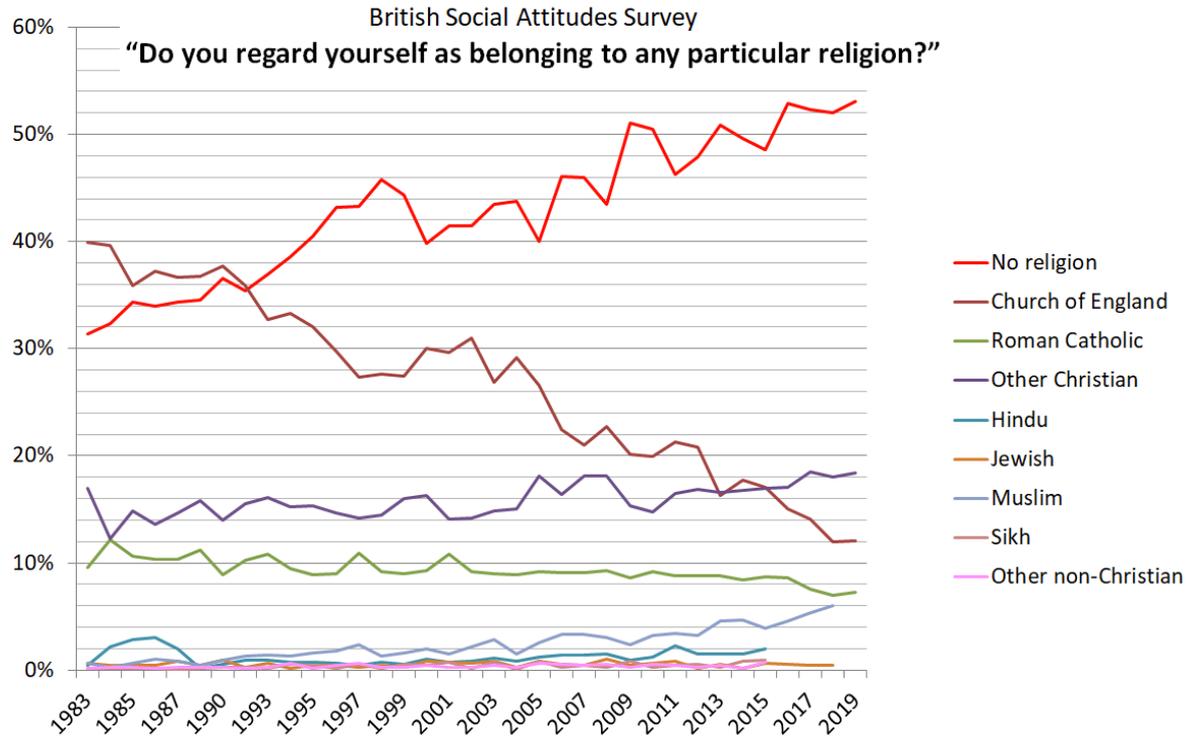
- Humanism
- Atheism
- Agnosticism
- Secularism
- Non-religious



# HOW MANY HUMANISTS ARE THERE?



# How many non-religious people are there?



Note: no data available for some religions in most recent years



# HOW MANY HUMANISTS ARE THERE?

**52%** non-religious

**5%** self-identify with the term 'humanist'

**20%** hold humanist beliefs

BSAS (2018) and YouGov (2018)



# HOW SHOULD HUMANISM BE PRESENTED?





▶ Save RE

February 17 at 10:28pm · Reading · 

Mock The Week

They're going to introduce Atheism lessons into schools.  
That'll be a short lesson wont it.

Hello everyone God doesnt exist.

Same time next week then.

18 Likes



'Humanism for me has always been positive. We don't define ourselves by what we don't believe, which is what I had always done prior to discovering humanism as an atheist. The fact that logic and rational thinking are so prized, alongside empathy and human feeling, really attracts me to the humanist philosophy.'



Ste Richardsson, Faith to Faithless



# PRESENT HUMANISM POSITIVELY

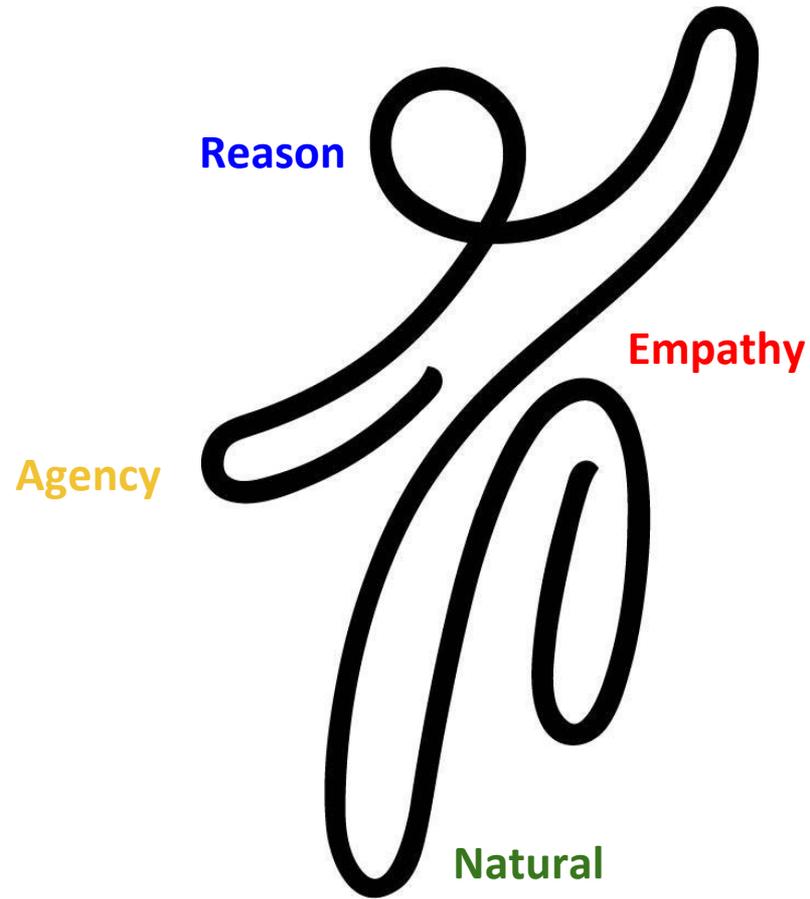
Don't just describe what humanists **don't** believe in...

Describe what they **do** believe in!





# HUMANISM



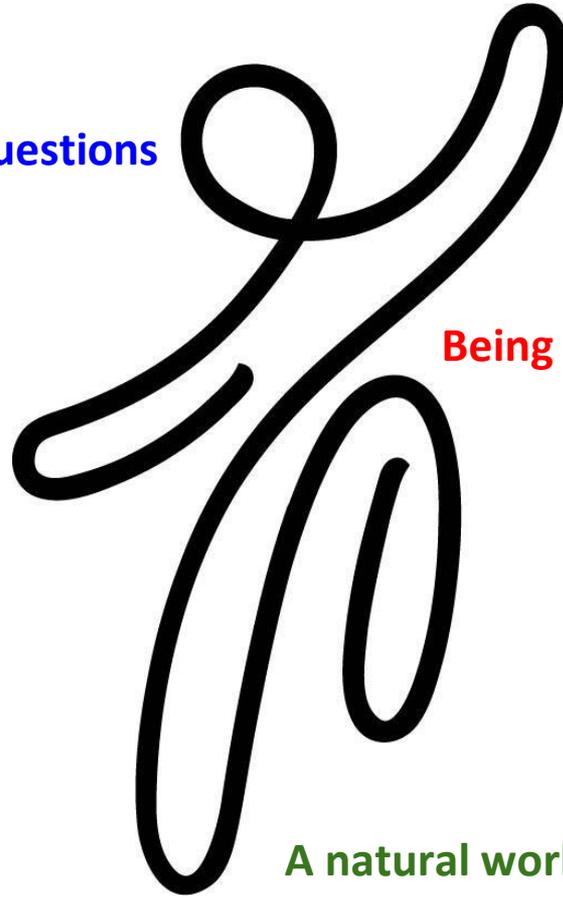
# HUMANISM

Asking questions

Finding happiness

Being kind

A natural world



# HUMANISM IN 5 THEMES

- 1) **The human being** (natural, potential)
- 1) **Understanding the world** (reason, science, atheism)
- 1) **The one life** (agency, happiness, freedom)
- 1) **Humanist ethics** (empathy, consequences, golden rule)
- 1) **Society: goals and action** (responsibility, human rights, secularism)



# The Amsterdam Declaration



# WHAT IS HUMANISM?

**Think for yourself**

**Act for everyone**



# ASSISTED DYING

## How might a humanist decide?

- Empathy
- Compassion
- Personal autonomy
- Happiness (quality of life)
- Evidence



# USE A RANGE OF VOICES



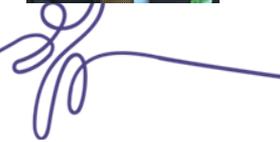
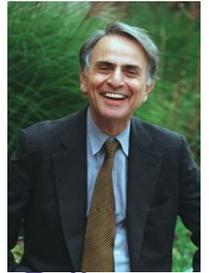
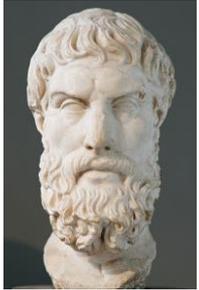
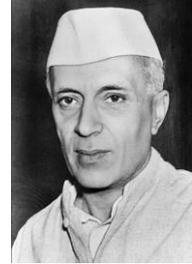
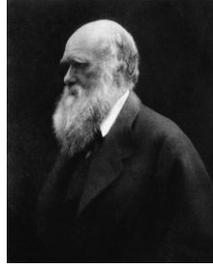
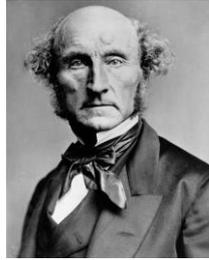
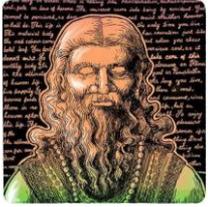
The staff and board of Humanists International



# A history of humanist thought



# A history of humanist thought



# Who is a humanist?

Writers, philosophers, scientists, actors, comedians...



# SUMMARY

- Non-religious worldviews
- How many humanists are there?
- Presenting humanism positively
- Core aspects of the humanist approach to life



# UNDERSTANDING HUMANISM

- Teaching Resources
- School Speakers
- Core knowledge guide
- Teacher Training / CPD
- Online courses

[understandinghumanism.org.uk](http://understandinghumanism.org.uk)

[understandinghumanism.org.uk/speakers](http://understandinghumanism.org.uk/speakers)

[education@humanism.org.uk](mailto:education@humanism.org.uk)

Twitter: [@HumanismEdu](https://twitter.com/HumanismEdu)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Understanding Humanism website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the email address 'education@humanists.uk' on the left and the Twitter handle '@humanismedu' on the right. Below the header is the 'Understanding Humanism' logo, which features a stylized figure of a person with arms raised. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for 'What is humanism?', 'Teaching about humanism', 'Resources', 'School speakers', 'Training', 'Online courses', and 'FAQs'. A 'DONATE' button is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left is a yellow box with the heading 'New resources!' and the text 'Check out our new resources organised into core areas of knowledge and sequenced across the age ranges.' Below this text is a 'FIND OUT MORE' button. The middle section is a purple box featuring a collage of educational materials, including a large set square, several pages of text, and a stack of books. On the right is a dark blue box with the text 'Humanists look for **natural** explanations for phenomena – they are atheists or agnostics.' Below this text is a 'LEARN MORE' button.

Below the main content area is a section titled 'TOP RESOURCES' in bold blue text. This section contains six purple boxes, each with a white icon and a label: a question mark for 'What is humanism?', a stylized figure for 'Human Beings', a magnifying glass for 'Understanding the World', a pencil for 'The One Life', a heart for 'Humanist Ethics', and a globe for 'Society'. Below these boxes is a link that says '...view all our resources'.

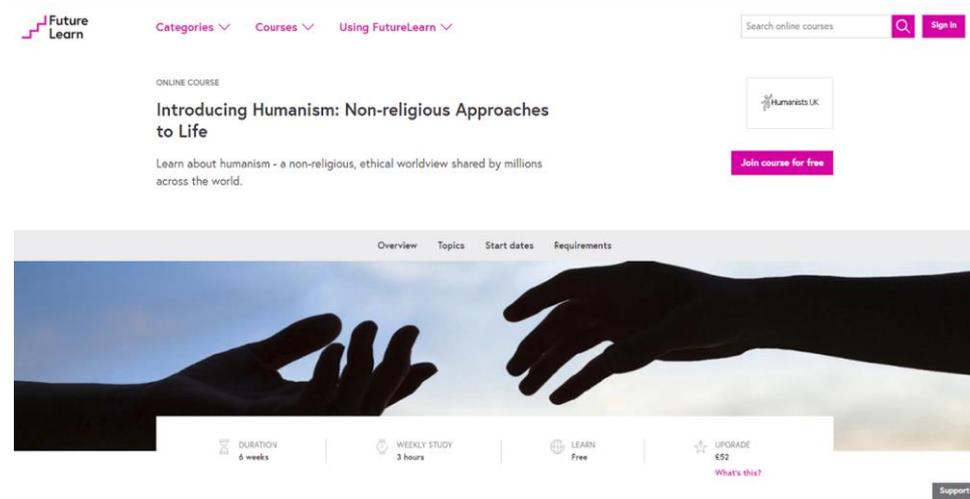


# THE MOOCS

Two free online courses on FutureLearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introducing-humanism>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/humanist-lives>



The screenshot displays the FutureLearn website interface. At the top left is the FutureLearn logo. Navigation links for 'Categories', 'Courses', and 'Using FutureLearn' are visible. A search bar contains the text 'Search online courses' and a 'Sign In' button. The main content area features the course title 'Introducing Humanism: Non-religious Approaches to Life' and a brief description: 'Learn about humanism - a non-religious, ethical worldview shared by millions across the world.' A 'Join course for free' button is prominently displayed. Below the course information is a navigation menu with 'Overview', 'Topics', 'Start dates', and 'Requirements'. A large image shows two hands reaching towards each other against a blue sky. At the bottom, a summary bar lists: 'DURATION 6 weeks', 'WEEKLY STUDY 3 hours', 'LEARN Free', and 'UPGRADE £52' with a 'What's this?' link. A 'Support' button is located in the bottom right corner.



# Humanist Heritage

Exploring the rich **history** and  
influence of **humanism** in the UK