

Atheism and agnosticism: overview (age 5+)

Knowledge outcomes: students should learn the following about atheists		
An atheist is somebody who does not believe in a god	Many people don't believe in a god because they don't see any reason or evidence to believe	Humanists are people who believe it is possible to lead good and happy lives without the need to believe in a god

Key vocab: belief, atheist, humanist, evidence

Ensure that students have understood:

- The meaning of the words 'atheist' and 'humanist'
 - An atheist is somebody who does not believe in a god
 - Many atheists are humanists
 - Humanists don't believe in a god (they are atheists) – they also believe:
 - the world is a natural place and that we can use science to understand it
 - we can live good and happy lives without the need for religion
- Many people don't believe in a god because they don't see any reason or evidence to believe
- Freedom of belief is important to many humanists

It is important that young students (who may come from a range of backgrounds) understand that either believing in a god or not believing in a god are both OK – either way, it is possible to be a good person and lead a happy life.