

# Non-religious world views

This means, the beliefs and values of people who do not belong to a religion.

Some key terms	
Atheist	Someone who is sure that God does not exist
Agnostic	Someone who does not know whether God exists or not
Humanist	An Atheist who believes we should do what is best for humans
Spiritual but not religious SBNR	Someone who believes in the existence of a God, or that we have a soul, or that there is life after death, but does not belong to a particular religion
Theist	Someone who believes there is a God,

## Statistics

The 2011 Census which surveyed the views of everyone in Britain found out that

- 25% of people said they definitely don't believe in God
- The number of people who don't believe in God had gone up a lot since the previous Census
- 17 million people said they were Humanists.
- Some Atheists support the values and teachings of a religion, without believing in God. 11% of Atheists said they thought of themselves as Christian.



## Why are people atheists?

- They were brought up not to believe in God
- There is no proof that God exists
- There are too many bad things happening in the world - if there was a God, he would not let it happen
- Religion can encourage people to do bad things

**Morality** This means, what you think about what is right and wrong

- People get their ideas about morality from different sources including
  - Holy books
  - Religious leaders
  - People they admire
  - Parents and family
  - Friends
  - The media
  - Their own experience



Fact	Example
Religious people don't only rely on religious teachings to tell them what is right and wrong - other things are important too!	They might follow the example of non-religious people that they admire for being good, like the environmental activist Greta Thunberg.
Humanists make decisions based on what is best for humans.	They might give to charity because it will help people in need, or recycle to improve the environment for everyone.
Some Atheists will sometimes use religious teachings to help them decide what to do.	They might admire Guru Nanak for his teachings on equality and giving, and try to follow those ideas.



Both religious and non-religious people admire Greta Thunberg for encouraging people to care for the environment.



Humanists value the importance of everyone being able to freely live life to the full.

They believe that religion should be kept separate from public life such as politics and education.

They value science and logic.

Humanists make their decisions about right and wrong using

- Reason (thinking logically about it)
- Empathy (think about how it will make others feel)
- Experience (what has happened in the past when I did this? How did I feel when someone did this to me? )
- Respect (treat everyone well)

**A non-religious community?**

*Communities help people to feel like they belong and give them a chance to get together with others who share their ideas.*

Religious communities are usually based around their places of worship. People can get together to share their beliefs, make friends, do fun things together, support each other in difficult times and celebrate important events like births and marriages.



Non-religious people have communities too!

The Sunday Assembly is a community of Atheists who get together to celebrate the good things in life and support each other through difficult or sad times.

Humanists have ceremonies to celebrate important milestones in their lives like new babies being born and people getting married and to help people grieve for loved ones when they die.

These ceremonies use music and words to express how they feel but do not include anything religious.