

RELIGIOUS STUDIES · WHOLE SCHOOL

Shared Values

A Multi-Belief Assembly

About this assembly

A 15-minute whole-school assembly exploring values shared across the major religions AND non-religious worldviews. Includes humanism, which represents the family backgrounds of many UK primary children. Designed to be inclusive of every child in the school — religious or not. Best with simple visual prompts (a candle, a pair of scales, a heart, a pair of hands) on a table at the front.

Opening — what do all good people share?

'I want to ask you a question this morning. If I asked you to describe a really good person — what would they be like? Take a few seconds. Don't say it out loud yet, just think.' [Pause for 10 seconds.] 'Now I'm going to suggest some answers. See how many you thought of.' Hold up your hand and count off: 'A good person is KIND. They care about others. A good person is FAIR. They treat others equally. A good person is HONEST. They don't lie. A good person is BRAVE. They do the right thing even when it is hard.' [Pause.] 'Today I want to tell you something interesting. The world's religions and the people who don't follow any religion — humanists — agree about almost all of these. They are the things almost everyone, everywhere, thinks make a good person.'

Kindness — what every tradition teaches

'KINDNESS comes first in nearly every tradition. Christians remember Jesus's teaching: love your neighbour as yourself. Muslims practise zakat — giving to the poor — as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Jewish people teach tikkun olam — repairing the world through kindness. Buddhists say loving-kindness, called metta, is one of the most important things a person can practise. Hindus believe that helping others is part of dharma, your duty in life. Sikhs run langar — free community meals at every gurdwara, open to everyone. And humanists — people who don't follow a religion — say kindness is what makes our short human lives worthwhile. Different



reasons. Same answer: be kind to others.'

Fairness — the Golden Rule

'There's a saying called the GOLDEN RULE: treat others how you would want to be treated. Listen to this list. Christianity: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Islam: "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." Judaism: "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour." Hinduism: "This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you." Buddhism: "Hurt not others in ways you yourself would find hurtful." Sikhism: "Treat others as you would be treated yourself." And humanism: "Care for others because they feel pain and joy just like you do." Six religions and one non-religious worldview, written down across thousands of years and across the whole planet — all teaching the same thing.'

Honesty — telling the truth

'Most traditions teach that telling the truth matters. Buddhism includes "right speech" in its Eightfold Path. Sikhism teaches that one of the highest duties is to live truthfully. Christianity teaches "thou shalt not bear false witness" in the Ten Commandments — that means don't lie about other people. Humanism teaches that honest discussion is how we work out what is true and how we should live. Why does honesty matter? Because trust is the most precious thing humans have between us. If we cannot trust each other, we cannot work together, learn together or live together. Telling the truth is how we keep that trust alive.'

Courage — doing the right thing

'COURAGE means doing the right thing even when it is hard. The traditions are full of examples. The Sikh Gurus stood up against unfairness, sometimes at great personal cost. Jesus stood up against people who treated others badly. The prophet Muhammad — peace be upon him — taught compassion when his community wanted revenge. The Buddha left his comfortable palace to find answers about suffering. The humanist tradition celebrates people like the women who fought for women to be allowed to vote, and the doctors who first used vaccines to fight diseases when many people were afraid of them. All of these took courage. Doing the right thing is not always easy. The traditions agree: be brave anyway.'

Closing — what we share

'Different stories. Different beliefs about whether there is a god. Different sacred places, different festivals, different prayers — or no prayers at all. But underneath, the world's religions and the people who don't follow any religion mostly AGREE about how to be a good person. Kindness. Fairness. Honesty. Courage. So when you meet someone who comes from a different background — religious or not — remember: you almost certainly share more than you don't.'



The big disagreements between religions and non-religions are real. Adults debate them seriously. But the things that actually matter for everyday life — how we treat each other — are shared across almost every tradition humans have ever come up with. That is something extraordinary. Today, look out for chances to be kind, fair, honest, or brave. Whatever you believe at home, those four things make the day better for everyone around you.'

