Understanding Humanism

The one life: overview (age 5+)

Big question: How should I live?

Key vocab: happiness, the Happy Human, potential, support, freedom, humanist naming ceremony



Knowledge outcomes:

Students should know about the following common features of a humanist approach to living a happy life

| The Happy Human as a symbol of humanism | The belief there are many different ways to be happy | The belief that everyone should be free to find what makes them happy |
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| The Happy Human represents a celebration of being human and our human potential The Happy Human is used by humanist organisations all around the world | The importance of finding happiness in the here and now The belief that there is no one single way to be happy – people are different | Being free to do what we want as long as we do not harm other people or animals Supporting other people to find happiness The focus at a humanist naming ceremony on a child's freedom to find their own path in life and the responsibility of other people to support them |

Introduction

- Begin with the <u>'A humanist approach to life: a summary' slide</u> to introduce/recap the core features of a humanist approach to life.
- Explain that you are going to explore how the belief that this is the one life we have affects how humanists choose to live.

The Happy Human

• Using <u>The Happy Human slides</u> and <u>information sheet</u>, look at the Happy Human symbol and explore what it means to humanists.

Freedom and happiness

• Carry out the <u>Happiness and freedom activity</u> and explore why these are so important to humanists.

Naming ceremonies

- Show and discuss <u>The perfect welcome film</u>.
- Carry out the <u>Humanist naming ceremonies activities</u> and explore how humanist naming ceremonies reflect the importance humanists place on the freedom to find our own path in life.

Summary and assessment

- Review the knowledge outcomes above.
- Ask students to decorate the <u>Happy Human symbol</u> with words and pictures to illustrate the humanist approach to life.
- Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist.