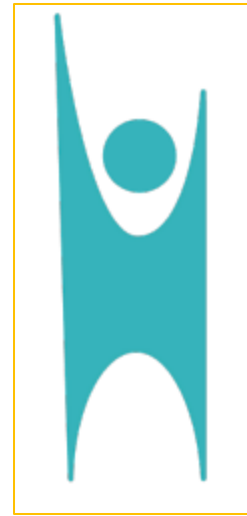




# Humanism

Key Question: How do inspirational people impact on how Humanists live today?



The 'Happy Human' is a symbol often associated with Humanism – it is designed to highlight the potential of humans and the ability to celebrate life and achievements which benefit humankind and other living things.

## Important Knowledge

Humanists may live their lives based on the following key beliefs:

- ✓ There is no evidence of a God – science gives many answers to things previously attributed to Gods e.g. the formation of life
- ✓ We have one life – we need to make the best of it
- ✓ It is our responsibility to treat humans and other living things ethically, fairly and positively
- ✓ We need to take personal responsibility for our actions
- ✓ We have the potential to achieve great things which will benefit humanity and future generations
- ✓ Humanists value freedom, empathy, reason and human rights
- ✓ Humanists respect people's right to hold their own beliefs; however they are opposed to human rights being violated which can happen in some societies, some of which may be governed by religious law.

	Key Vocabulary
<b>Humanist</b>	a follower of the principles of humanism.
<b>Reason</b>	the power of the mind to think, understand and form judgements.
<b>Atheist</b>	Someone who doesn't believe in a God or gods.
<b>Agnostic</b>	Someone who believes you can never know for sure whether God exists or not.
<b>Theist</b>	Someone who believes that there is a creator God.
<b>Empathy</b>	to understand and share the feelings of others
<b>Secular</b>	Not connected with religious or spiritual matters
<b>Rationality</b>	Thinking about things clearly, in a logical way, with decisions based on facts.

## The Golden Rule:

Humanists believe in the GOLDEN RULE which is to treat others as you want to be treated. They think that you should always consider how your actions will affect other people and you should think about how you would feel in someone else's shoes or situation. Imagining how others feel is called EMPATHY.