

## KS1 Lesson Plan 1 – Exploring Secularism

### Freedom of Expression

<b>Background</b>	<b>What should we be allowed to say?</b>  Studying freedom of expression at KS1 allows children to use their growing experience of speech and discussion within school, home and community contexts.  Being free to say what you want to say is important in a society that values the existence of different types of people, beliefs and opinions.  A society that has these values is called a <i>pluralist</i> society.
<b>Subjects</b>	Citizenship
<b>Curriculum Links</b>	<b>The DfE Citizenship Programme of Study at KS1</b>  1. Pupils should be taught:  a) to recognise what they like and dislike, what is fair and unfair, and what is right and wrong b) to share their opinions on things that matter to them and explain their views  2. Pupils should be taught:  a) to take part in discussions with one other person and the whole class b) to take part in a simple debate about topical issues c) to recognise choices they can make, and recognise the difference between right and wrong  5. Give the opportunity to:  a) take part in discussions (for example, talking about topics of school, local, national,

## KS1 Lesson Plan 1 – Exploring Secularism

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	<p>European, Commonwealth and global concern</p> <p>b) consider social and moral dilemmas that they come across in everyday life (for example, aggressive behaviour, questions of fairness, right and wrong, simple political issues, use of money, simple environmental issues)</p>
<b>Key Question</b>	What is Free Speech?
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Expected:</b> pupils can explain what free speech means in relation to the example in the lesson.</p> <p><b>Greater Depth:</b> pupils can explain what free speech means in a wider range of contexts.</p>
<b>Links</b>	Resource PowerPoint
<b>Stimulus</b>	<p><i>A school plans to take the Y2 children on a science trip to the local zoo – a parent talks to his daughter, Rosie (age 7), at home and shares his belief that zoos are cruel and outdated. Back at school Rosie relays this belief to her friends in the class and they all decide that they don't want to support the zoo by visiting it. The parent supports Rosie with further research about zoos and this cements her belief that they are cruel and shouldn't be visited. Rosie and her friends decide that they are going to tell the teacher and headteacher that they would like to change the trip.</i></p> <p><i>During a whole class discussion at the end of the day, Rosie tells her teacher that her group doesn't want to go to the zoo and asks whether they could go somewhere else instead. The teacher is annoyed with Rosie and shuts her down crossly, saying that they will be going to the zoo and that that's the end of the matter.</i></p> <p><i>Stop and ask the children:</i></p> <p><i>'Has Rosie said anything wrong'</i> <i>'Has Rosie's dad said anything wrong?'</i> <i>'Has the teacher said anything wrong?'</i></p>

**KS1 Lesson Plan 1 – Exploring Secularism**  
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*After school the teacher talks with the Headteacher – the teacher is still cross, because she doesn't feel the same way about zoos – she believes that they are important for conservation and education. She is also annoyed with Rosie and feels it was rude of her to ask whether they could go somewhere else - after all of the hard work that she had put in preparing the trip.*

*Stop the children and ask:*

*'Do you understand why the teacher is cross with Rosie?'*

*'What do you think the Headteacher will say?'*

*'What do you think the Headteacher should say?'*

*'How do you think Rosie feels at the moment?'*

*The Headteacher talks to the teacher. She says that she understands why she feels cross because she has done a lot of work to prepare the trip. She also says that she understands Rosie's point of view and that Rosie should be allowed to say what she did. The Headteacher then says that she will decide what will happen next and that she will think about it that night.*

*Go through the responses below and let the children decide which one they agree most with – insist that they justify their choice using the conjunction 'because'.*

- a) "I have decided that the teacher was right – everyone in the class has to go on the trip to the zoo."
- b) "I have decided that Rosie is right – I am going to cancel the zoo trip."
- c) "I have decided that those children who don't want to go to the zoo can

## KS1 Lesson Plan 1 – Exploring Secularism

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	<p>do something else – those who do want to go can still go.”</p> <p>d) “I have decided to have a discussion with the class and to let everyone have a vote on what they would like to do. We will do what most children want.”</p> <p>e) “I have decided to speak with the parents and see what they think is right.”</p> <p>f) “I have decided to ban all school trips because dealing with this has really annoyed me.”</p>
<b>Exercises</b>	<p>Did you know that article 12 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, or UNCRC states that, <i>‘When important decisions are being made that affect you, you have the right to give your opinion and to be taken seriously.’</i></p> <p><i>Do you agree that it’s important that adults let you give your opinion on things and take what you say seriously?</i></p> <p>Discuss which of the Headteacher’s responses are in line with article 12 and which are not. Give reasons for your answer using the conjunction, ‘because’.</p>
<b>Take it Further</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support pupils to write a Free Speech Code for the class</li><li>• Support pupils to investigate what the law says about free speech and what the limits to freedom of expression are.</li></ul>
<b>What do Secularists Think About Freedom of Expression?</b>	<p>Secularists generally believe that a vibrant civil society with robust freedom of expression is best placed to challenge hateful speech, discrimination and sectarian bigotry, and that free speech organisations have an important role in this. Secularists have a range of views on what role the state should play in</p>

## KS1 Lesson Plan 1 – Exploring Secularism

### Freedom of Expression

	<p>challenging hate speech. Certain forms of speech such as incitement to violence or harassment may not be worthy of protection. But secularists generally agree that restrictions on this need to be proportionate and not privilege or protect specific religious views from criticism.</p> <p><b>Should there be limits to free speech?</b></p> <p>Secularists strongly support freedom of speech and the ability to exchange ideas and opinions without threat of repression or violence. Many secularists reject social restrictions on speech that are rooted in protecting religion's privileged place in society. But freedom of speech is not absolute. Most people don't believe it extends to incitement to violence; most people support at least some protections against libel or false advertising and most recognise that institutions can set internal rules. How to protect free expression when it comes into potential conflict with other rights is not always straightforward and different secularists have different views</p>
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