

EXPLORING SECULARISM



EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS FACTSHEET



Exploring Secularism is all about questions which arise in a pluralist society where people have different beliefs. The resources advocate asking these questions; they are not a manifesto of answers. It is for students to explore a range of answers to these questions and come up with some of their own.

Equality and human rights are fundamental aspects of most forms of secularism. Increasingly, political and moral debates are framed around competing interpretations of equality and human rights..

Questions to explore in this theme:

Key question	Main subject area(s)	Other subject area(s)
What are freedom of and from religion?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What is apostasy?	Religion and belief education Citizenship Fundamental British Values	SMSC
Should freedom of and from religion have limits?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What are equality laws?	PSHE Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What is direct and indirect discrimination?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
Should we have 'one law for all'?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
When can religions discriminate?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What are your rights at work?	Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What are 'children's rights'?	PSHE Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What are "reproductive rights"?	PSHE Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy
What does religious discrimination look like?	PSHE Citizenship Fundamental British Values SMSC	Politics Religion and belief education Philosophy

Tips for exploring this theme:

You can find a basic secularist perspective on the core questions raised in this theme in our guide for the teachers at exploringsecularism.org/why-explore-secularism

You can find further resources and exercises related to this theme at exploringsecularism.org/equality-and-human-rights

News stories concerning a clash of rights involving religion can be adapted into discussion resources. The National Secular Society's website has a large archive of news stories: secularism.org.uk/news

Going back to November 2009, our daily media roundup has in excess of 16,000 articles from a range of sources and viewpoints covering issues related to secularism. You can find an example and subscribe at secularism.org.uk/newsletters/view/daily-media-briefing or search the full archive at secularism.org.uk/in-the-media

Most news sites have a religion section where issues involving religious privilege, tolerance and discrimination come up. Try the BBC, *Guardian* or *Telegraph*:

bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cjnw18q4ny3t/religion

theguardian.com/world/religion

telegraph.co.uk/religion/