



Derbyshire Humanists
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Can we help with teaching about Humanism?

For a number of years we have been invited into schools, colleges and universities to help with the presentation of humanist views on a wide variety of topics as part of RE, PSHE, Citizenship or General Studies. Humanism is now a required part of RE at all key stages following the launch of the revised Agreed Syllabus.

The inclusion of non-theist viewpoints, such as Humanism, is part of a gradual change that has taken place over the last few years with the term "religion" being replaced by "religion and belief" in government documents and in legislation: the Human Rights Act, The Equality Act and the Racial and the Religious Hatred Act for example.

Derbyshire Humanists represents those with non-theist beliefs in the City and County and we work closely with the British Humanist Association (BHA: www.humanism.org.uk) to help schools when putting across a humanist view of life. The BHA has produced a web site dedicated to this task and, if you have time, we strongly recommend having a look at www.HumanismForSchools.org.uk.

England is unique in relation to religion and belief. On the one hand it has an established religion, the Church of England, while on the other it has the lowest religious attendance of any country in the European Union – less than 8% of the population is involved in any form of regular religious activity. Statistics are always open to question but the Office for National Statistics report "**Social Trends 2008**" showed that over 45% of the population claimed to have "no religion" while "belief in god" was less than 38%. The relevant pages from the report are shown on the **Latest News** page of the Derby SACRE web site: www.DerbySACRE.org.

Can we help you?

We recognise that some teachers will be very happy covering non-theist beliefs while others may welcome some assistance – we are here to help in any way we can and we do not charge for our services.

We can offer:

1. INSET training (primary and secondary) – we can provide someone to do a short presentation, to answer questions and to lead a discussion about the best ways to present Humanism to students.
2. Speakers – we can provide assemblies at primary level, talks at KS3 and talks or debates at KS4/post-16 – as part of RE, General Studies or Citizenship/PSHE. We have done this in many schools in the County and City and we can provide references and testimonials if required. Our speakers are CRB checked and may be booked directly with ourselves or through Derby Open Centre (www.DerbyOpenCentre.org/speakers.htm).
3. Background information – for your information I enclose a short **adult** booklet about Humanism. Some of the material is contentious and some people will agree with it, while others will disagree with it. The aim is to promote open and free discussion. More material is available on our web site www.SecularDerby.org.
4. The Agreed Syllabus folder for Derby City contains more on Humanism.
5. The BHA web site contains lesson plans, videos, background notes etc: www.HumanismForSchools.org.uk.

I am happy to pop into school at any convenient time to talk about ways we may be able to assist you. Please do not hesitate to give me a call (01283 733934) or drop me an email (Mike.Lake@SecularDerby.org).

Best regards

Mike Lake
Derbyshire Humanists (For a short biography please see: www.DerbyOpenCentre.org/mike.htm)