

# SUBJECT: Religious Education

## UNIT: YEAR 9 Unit 3 – Good, bad, right, wrong – How do I decide?



### What is right and wrong?

- **Absolute Morality** - Where you believe that something is always right or wrong in all situations regardless of culture, religious tradition, time or age.
- **Relative Morality** – This is where you would agree that things can be right or wrong in different situations.

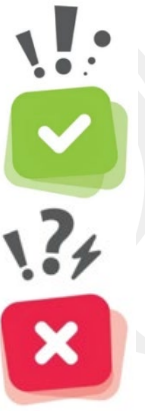
#### DEFINITION

Knowing the difference between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour.

#### EXAMPLES

Ethics  
Right  
Correct  
Virtue  
goodness

WORD  
Morality



### Where do people get their moral codes from?

- Judaism teaches that it is not good enough to make random acts of kindness. It says that kind deeds should be part of a person's daily routine, along with prayer and worship.
- Buddhism lays down guidelines for positive relationships between people. The moral code consists of five principles called the Five Precepts.
- All religions aim to create peace between people and groups of people. However, most recognise that this an ideal that is not always possible keep.

### What is the 'Golden Rule'?

***"In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you"***

**Islam** - The Qur'an commands Muslims to always treat others with justice, even if they act with animosity and injustice towards you.

**Judaism** – The Torah states that what is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow.

**Buddhism** – Buddhist scripture says don't hurt others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

### What makes the 'perfect' Muslim?

#### **Risalah (prophethood)**

Islam means 'submission to God'. Muslims believe in one God, Allah, and follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, Allah's messenger. It is believed that Muhammad received the Qur'an, which is the most important Islamic holy book and the only one to contain the pure word of Allah.

#### **The importance of prophethood**

Risalah is the Arabic word for message. It refers to 'prophethood' and represents the various ways Allah communicates with humanity. Islam teaches that Allah wants to help people to live good lives, so he sends messages to guide them on how to do so. Many of these messages are found in the Qur'an. Muslims believe that messages from Allah are communicated through .

### Can you be 'good' and non-religious?

In Peter Singer's book "A Life you can Save", he presents the following argument – suffering and death from lack of food, shelter and medical care are bad. Secondly, if it is in your power to prevent something bad from happening, without sacrificing anything nearly as important, it is wrong not to do so.



He also discusses animal rights and believes that the treatment of animals—that of equal consideration of interests. In other words, the interests of non-human animals should be considered equally with human interests.



Peter Singer dismisses the notion of the Christian god simply by showing that "the world around us" does not agree with such a god. He says that there cannot be a god due to the amount of suffering in the world – this is all down to free will.