



How old is Humanism?

Humanist thought is as old as humanity. From the first millennium BCE in ancient China, India, and Greece; through the scientific revolution and the enlightenment; to modern secularisation and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, humanist ideas have helped to shape the world in which we now live.

Where do Humanists think morality comes from?

Humanists believe the origins of morality lie in human beings. Our understanding about how we should treat each other has evolved from the way human beings have learned to live together in groups.

Humanists believe human beings are capable of working out for themselves the difference between right and wrong by using empathy, compassion, reason, and respect for the dignity of all persons. Instead of following unquestionable moral rules, they believe we should consider the potential consequences of our actions, and take into account the rights and wishes of those affected.

Many humanists admire and try to live by 'The Golden Rule':
'Treat other people as you'd want to be treated in their situation. Do not treat others in a way you would not like to be treated yourself.'

What is Humanists UK? www.humanism.org.uk



Humanists UK (previously known as the British Humanist Association) arose out of 19th century secular societies. It campaigns on a number of social and moral issues relating to the creation of a more open, equal society and greater international co-operation. It has many distinguished supporters including: Jim Al-Khalili, Stephen Fry, A C Grayling, Philip Pullman, Grayson Perry, Richard Dawkins, Polly Toynbee, Brian Cox, Ian McEwan, Patrick Stewart, Simon Le Bon. There are over fifty local groups across the U.K. Humanists UK is a member of the International Humanist & Ethical Union.

"How humanist are you?" Why not try the quiz below and find out!
<https://humanism.org.uk/humanism/how-humanist-are-you/>

What do Farnham Humanists do? <http://farnham.humanist.org.uk/>

- **Meet and enjoy socialising with like-minded people.**
- **Learn, exchange ideas, and debate issues.**
- **Volunteer and engage in the community, helping others and charitable work.**
- **Promote and celebrate evidence based rational thinking.**
- **Encourage knowledge about humanism as an ethical life-stance.**
- **Represent non-religious views to provide a balance in society and education.**



Founded in June 2004, we meet in Farnham for monthly Sunday evening talks and discussions on topics from 'The Meaning of life', 'Ethical juries' or 'Climate Change' to views from various faiths. We also meet informally on the first Wednesday of each month for a friendly pub drink and conversation about anything and everything!

Group activities include annual dinner and festive evenings, visits to places of humanist interest and a thriving bookclub.

As well as our members volunteering as individuals for many organisations, some choose to be trained and accredited by Humanists UK to give time to:

- **Pastoral care:** visiting as trained volunteers those in need of someone with like minded beliefs to talk to, e.g. in hospitals, hospices and prisons. See <http://humanistcare.org.uk/> for more.
- **Education:** going into schools and colleges as trained volunteer school speakers to contribute to RE lessons, assemblies and multi-faith events and providing inputs to the Surrey RE Agreed Syllabus and guidance on worship in Surrey schools. See <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/> for more.
- **Ceremonies:** conducting non-religious funerals, weddings (mixed and same sex) and baby-namings. Our local celebrants support individuals to create authentic, bespoke ceremonies that put people and their stories at the heart of every occasion. See <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/> for more.