

RS	What is Ethics?	Year 8	Term 5
Key words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics- The philosophical study of right and wrong. • Morality- principles of right and wrong or good and bad behaviour. • Principles- a moral belief/rule that helps you know what is right and wrong and that influences your actions. • Absolutism- actions are good or bad in themselves regardless of their consequence e.g. stealing is always wrong so being right or wrong is a fact. • Relativism- no action is good or bad; it depends on the situation and the action's consequences e.g. lying to stop someone from getting hurt. They believe moral principles may need to be adapted in certain situations. • Good- that which is morally right. 		The Sanctity of Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctity of Life- life is sacred as it is a gift from God. • Sacred- something that is sacred is believed to be holy and to have a special connection with God. <p>Christians and Muslims believe that God created us, this means that all people are special and important to God. They believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -People deserve respect and to be cared for. -No one should take life or deny it. -Many use this belief to decide if something is right or wrong. 	
Sacred texts and the Sanctity of Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis <i>"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over..."</i> • One of the 10 Commandments states <i>"Do not kill"</i> showing that human life is valuable. • Jeremiah- <i>'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you , before you were born'</i> • Qur'an <i>"...take not life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law..."</i> • Qur'an <i>"...if any one slew a person – unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land – it would be as if he slew the whole people.."</i> 		Non-religious views on the value of human life <p>Humanists believe human life is precious.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They promote happiness and fulfilment in this life because they believe it is the only one we have. • They promote respect for all humans as worthy of equal consideration • Humanist have always supported human rights, which have been called "Values for a Godless Age". <p>Friedrich Nietzsche was a German atheist. He believed if people wanted to know whether they were living a good life, they should ask themselves whether they would be willing for their life to repeat itself exactly the same way over and over. If they would have regrets or be unhappy with their choices, they were not living a good life. He called this idea <i>'the doctrine of eternal recurrence'</i></p>	
Other Christian values for living good life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love- Jesus taught people to love one another and to enact agape. Today, some Christians apply agape when making moral decisions. • Jesus taught the Greatest Commandment <i>"Love your neighbour as you love yourself"</i> so believe love should be the guiding principal when making ethical decisions. • Stewardship- caring and respecting God's creation. Many Christians consider stewardship when making moral decisions. Jesus taught the Parable of the Talent supporting stewardship. 		Utilitarianism <p>Utilitarianism-the ethical theory that the best action in a situation is the one which creates the greatest amount of good for the greatest number.</p> <p>Utilitarians- believe that if an action causes more suffering than pleasure, then it should be viewed as bad.</p> <p>Jeremy Bentham -was an 18th-century English atheist philosopher who came up with this theory. It I based on the idea that everyone's happiness is equally important.</p>	