

Why do some people have to stand up for their beliefs?

Religion and Worldviews | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2025-26

Theology

The UK's protected characteristics make it against the law to treat people unfairly because of their personal qualities like religion, age, gender and race.

In some times and places, people did not or do not have religious freedom. Throughout history and modern times, people have had to protest or fight for religious freedom.

Vocabulary

Advocate: someone who supports and speaks up for someone else or for a cause they believe in.

Atheist: A person who does not believe there is a god or gods.

Discrimination: Treating someone unfairly or differently because of who they are (including religion, age, or gender).

Freedom: the power or right to act, speak or think as one wants.

Martyr: someone who accepts suffering, or even death, for their religious beliefs.

Prejudice: Judging someone or something before knowing them well, often leading to unfair treatment.

Religious freedom: the freedom to choose, change and practise beliefs.

Stereotype: A fixed idea about a group of people that is often not true.

Tolerance: Willingness to accept or respect different beliefs, practices, or opinions, even if you disagree with them.

Social Sciences

Leadership and authority can impact people's worldviews; and worldviews can impact the process of choosing leadership and authority.

Some festivals commemorate times when religious freedom has been fought for.

People are inspired and led by others from within and outside their community.

Some places are of particular significance due to historical, cultural or geographical reasons.

Philosophy

Within and between religious and non-religious groups, people may disagree about challenging issues.

Some people have suffered / are suffering from religious prejudice. Some people have preconceptions surrounding religious groups; these may be influenced by external factors.

Communities sometimes fight or protest for the rights of themselves or others.

Our worldviews can change and evolve in response to our learning and experiences.



Bandi Chhor Divas is a Sikh celebration which celebrates Guru Hargobind's release from prison and the liberation of 52 other prisoners he rescued who held different beliefs to him.



Guy Fawkes lived during a time when it was illegal in England to practise Christianity in a certain way. People had to follow the beliefs and practices of the monarch or face punishment. King James was a Christian **Protestant** whereas Guy Fawkes was a Christian **Catholic**: the **divine right of kings** was the belief that a king or queen had been chosen by God so could make all of the country's decisions

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Credit: Keith Corrigan / Alamy Stock Photo

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Key Learning: To understand and explain why some people have to stand up for what they believe in.

1 What does freedom look like?

Recognise the importance of religious freedom by interpreting news reports. Interpret source of evidence and identify recent challenges some religious people have faced. Creatively express own understanding of current issues by writing a poem or changing song lyrics to reflect our views on religious freedom.

2 How have beliefs been challenged in the past?

Consider the challenges some religious figures faced by looking at Jewish, Christian and Sikhi stories. Summarise the key message and identify prejudice and discrimination. Discuss ways people have show devotion to their beliefs. Use issues from the past to suggest ways to create positive change today.

3 How can light represent standing up for what you believe in?

Explain how some martyrs have stood up for what they believed in and why Bandi Chhor Divas is celebrated by many Sikhs. Recall historical events which inspired a Sikh festival of light and explain the symbolism of light in festivals.

4 Should we celebrate Bonfire Night?

Explore different people's viewpoints about a sensitive issue and consider how the meaning of festivals can differ by exploring the origin of Bonfire Night. Express own opinions in a debate. Identify and compare the meaning behind different festivals of light.

5 What can inspire people to stand up for their beliefs?

Explore why people stand up for their beliefs using a variety of modern-day scenarios. Give examples of people who have stood up for what they believe in and explain why they may do this. Recognise how someone standing up for their beliefs positively affects others.

6 How can we stand up for what we believe in?

Recognise prejudice, explaining how and why people stand up for what they believe in and why some religious groups support each other even though their worldviews may differ. Use empathy to understand different people's viewpoints.