

Half term two - Introduction to Philosophy

Different ways of seeing

- Everybody sees the same things in the world but we perceive the things we see differently.
- People who believe in different religions have different ideas about the world.
- In RE we do not tell people what to see or what to think.
- We are respectful of different opinions and different views.



Atheism

- Atheism means that you do not believe in God.
- Atheism has become more popular in modern times because science gives us many important answers.
- People sometimes make fun of religious beliefs because we have scientific explanations.
- Some famous atheists are Richard Dawkins, and Ricky Gervais.



Arguments for the existence of God

- There are many different arguments for the existence of God.
- The Design Argument suggests that the world is so complex God must have designed it.
- William Paley used the analogy of a watch. He said that a watch is too perfect to be there by chance.
- The Ontological argument argues that God is the greatest being and so must exist by definition.
- The Cosmological argument argues that causes do not go back infinitely, so there must be a first cause - God.
- Many people still do not believe these arguments prove that God exists.



Evil and suffering

- There are two different types of evil: evil caused by humans (moral evil) and evil in nature (natural evil).
- Some people believe that because this evil exists then God must not be real because he would stop evil things happening.
- Sometimes evil and suffering can bring about positive results.
- Some Christians argue that God allows this evil and suffering because he is testing us.
- God gave humans free will, so he is not responsible for moral evil.



Religious Experience

- Religious experiences are experiences that bring people closer to God.
- They may make people who are non-religious become religious, or make people change from one religion to another.
- Some types of religious experiences are conversion, dreams, visions, miracles and worship.
- Some Christians think that these experiences are proof of God's existence.

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