

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE RACISM? CAN RELIGION HELP?

Curriculum Subject - RE

### Summary

Racism is dangerous and unjust.

Within this unit of study we look at how religion can help to reduce racism and how faith teaches people to respect and tolerate one another.



### Facts

1. Religious scriptures teach followers to treat others with goodness and fairness.
2. Racism has its roots in history and, whilst it is not a prevalent, is still ongoing today.
3. Over the course of hundreds of years, our perspective of right and wrong in relation to the treatment of people due to their skin colour or background has changed considerably. For example, statues of people like Edward Colston (who was a slave trader) are no longer considered appropriate, even though he also gave much of his wealth to charity.
4. Many religions follow some form of the Golden Rule of treating others as we would like to be treated. Some people call the negative form ('Don't do to others what you don't want done to you') The Silver Rule.

### Questions We Will Ask

1. Racism; What is it and why is it unfair?
2. What can we learn from the stories of two statues in Bristol?#
3. How did St Peter learn that God has no favourites?
4. The Golden Rule and Silver Rule; What are they, and why are these rules found in so many religions? Can following the Golden Rule reduce racism?
5. What can we learn from anti-racist people of different religions?
6. How can I express my own vision for justice and equality?

### Key Vocabulary

**Prejudice** 1. an opinion that is formed without knowing or considering all the facts. 2. hatred or unfair treatment towards a person or group without cause or reason.

**Discrimination** Unfair treatment of one particular person or group of people. Usually the different treatment is because of the person's sex, religion, nationality, ethnicity (culture), race or other personal traits.

**Racism** When people are treated unfairly because of their skin colour or background. It is a kind of discrimination and it causes great harm to people.