

Can following the Golden Rule reduce racism

Anti-racist religious education

www.anti-racist-re.org.uk

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-re



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP AND METHODIST SCHOOLS



RE Today
Services



Can the golden rule and the silver rule help reduce racism?

In RE pupils learn about diversity all the time.

In anti-racist RE, negative or racist attitudes or behaviour are confronted and challenged so that prejudice can be reduced and equality and justice issues can be highlighted.

In this lesson your pupils aged 7-11 will learn that different versions of the 'golden rule' and the 'silver rule' are found in all religions and cultures.

See the notes to this slide for further details.

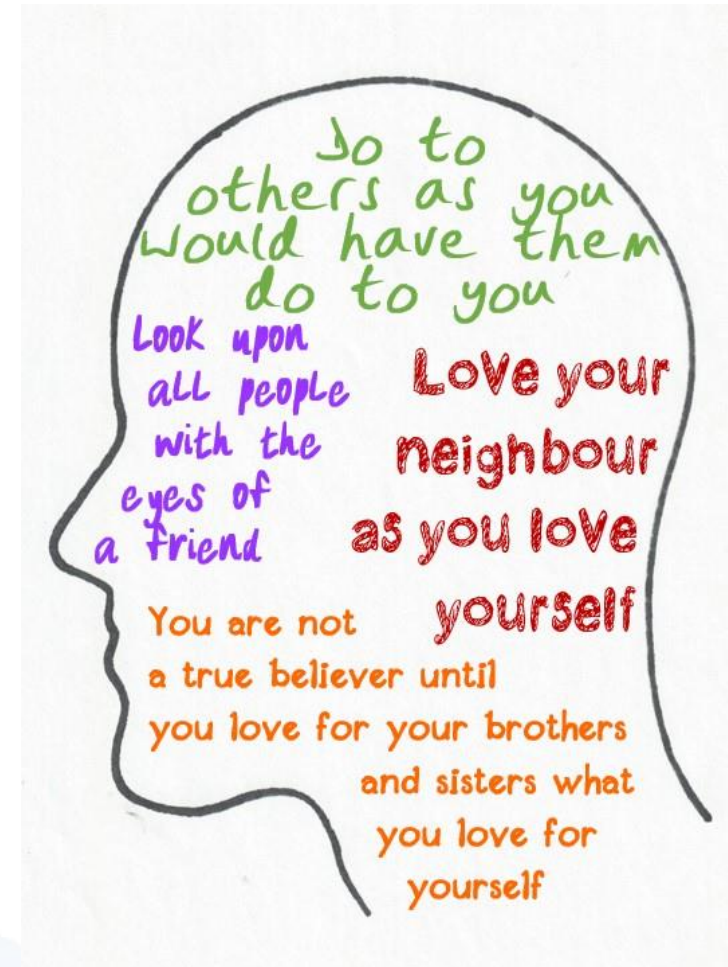
Start your pupils work on the next slide.

Or show them this interesting musical clip to get them identifying issues and thinking (it's a cover of Cynthia Erivo's song 'Stand Up' from the amazing 2019 movie 'Harriet'):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0CpVSvhFeo>



What's in your head?



Golden Rule, Silver Rule

- When have you heard someone say ‘and how would you like it if they did that to you?’
- This is a call to practice the ‘Golden Rule.’ ‘Do to others as you would like them to do to you.’
- Many religions and cultures have different versions of this rule in their holy writings. We will look at twelve of them.
- Why do you think this ‘Golden Rule’ of treating others as we would like to be treated is found in so many different religions?
- Some people call the negative form (‘Don’t do to others what you don’t want done to you’) ‘The Silver Rule.’
- What do you think would change if everyone followed the rule in a] your friendship group, b] your class, c] your town, d] the whole world.
- On the next slide there are 12 different versions of the Golden Rule – which do you like best? Why?



“Do to all people as you would wish to have done to you; and reject for others what you would reject for yourself.” Muslim, Hadith of Abu Dawud	The Greatest Comanment: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind. And, ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ Christian, Luke 10:28	“I am a stranger to no one, and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.” Sikh, Guru Granth Sahib 1299
“What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow human” Jewish, Talmud: Shabbat 31a	“No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.” Muslim, Forty Hadith of an-Nawawi,13	“This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.” Hindu, Mahabharata 5,1517
“A person should treat all creatures as he himself would be treated.” Jain religion, Sutrakritanga1.11.33	“Strong One, make me strong! May all beings look on me with the eye of a friend May I look on all beings with the eye of a friend. May we look on one another with the eye of a friend” Hindu. Yajur Veda 36.18	“Grant that we may not so much seek To be consoled as to console To be understood as to understand To be loved as to love.” Christian, St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
“Blessed is he who prefers his brother before himself.” The Baha’I faith, Tablets of Bah’a’ullah, 71	“That nature only is good when it shall not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.” Zoroastrian, Dadistan-i-Dinik, 94,5	“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.” Buddhist, Udana-Varga 5,1



Can you imagine a song based on the Golden Rule?

- Can anyone think of a tune for the Golden Rule?
- Listen to the four examples from the boxes below. Which one do you like best? Give marks out of ten for the music and for their words.
- Can your class choose, or even write – a ‘Golden Rule’ song to teach to your school, maybe in assembly?
- What difference does it make to reducing racism if people live by the golden rule?

Billy Bragg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdxBdl0JTyQ>

Dru Vocals Golden Rule Rap

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9pne_hG6PI

Rhona Vincent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cl4wgG9ul3Y>

Do, do do to others... (Kid's song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBsPQv6lXjA>





"Treating others as you want them to treat you is a democratic thing to do because it means each person counts for one in the community, whatever their race or religion."



"We are all free, and nobody wants to be trapped or imprisoned. So our own feeling of loving freedom should help us to see that everyone else also deserves to be free. This is important where, for example, black people have been denied their rights in the past."



"Do to others what you want done to you means that if you want your religion to be respected, you should respect other people's religions just the same."



"The Silver Rule says 'don't hurt others, because you don't like being hurt yourself.' At the very least, we should accept people who are different and not harm them."



"If you make rules and laws that apply to everyone just the same, prince or beggar, then that puts the Golden Rule to work in the whole country, for every ethnic group and every religion."



The Golden Rule in Art

- What artwork would you make for the United Nations (UN) building in New York? Norman Rockwell's famous painting for the UN building in New York might inspire you! See it, and find out more information about it, at his museum's website:
https://www.nrm.org/2014/02/golden_rule
- Express your understanding of the meaning of the Golden Rule through art! You can review examples done by other children in your age group and first sketch, then create your own painting to show the Golden Rule in action.
- See the Spirited Arts website for examples:
<http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/art-in-heaven/2014/?ThemeID=60>
- Some publishers make posters of the different versions of the Golden Rule. But rather than spend money on these, can you design your own? There are four examples on the next four slides.



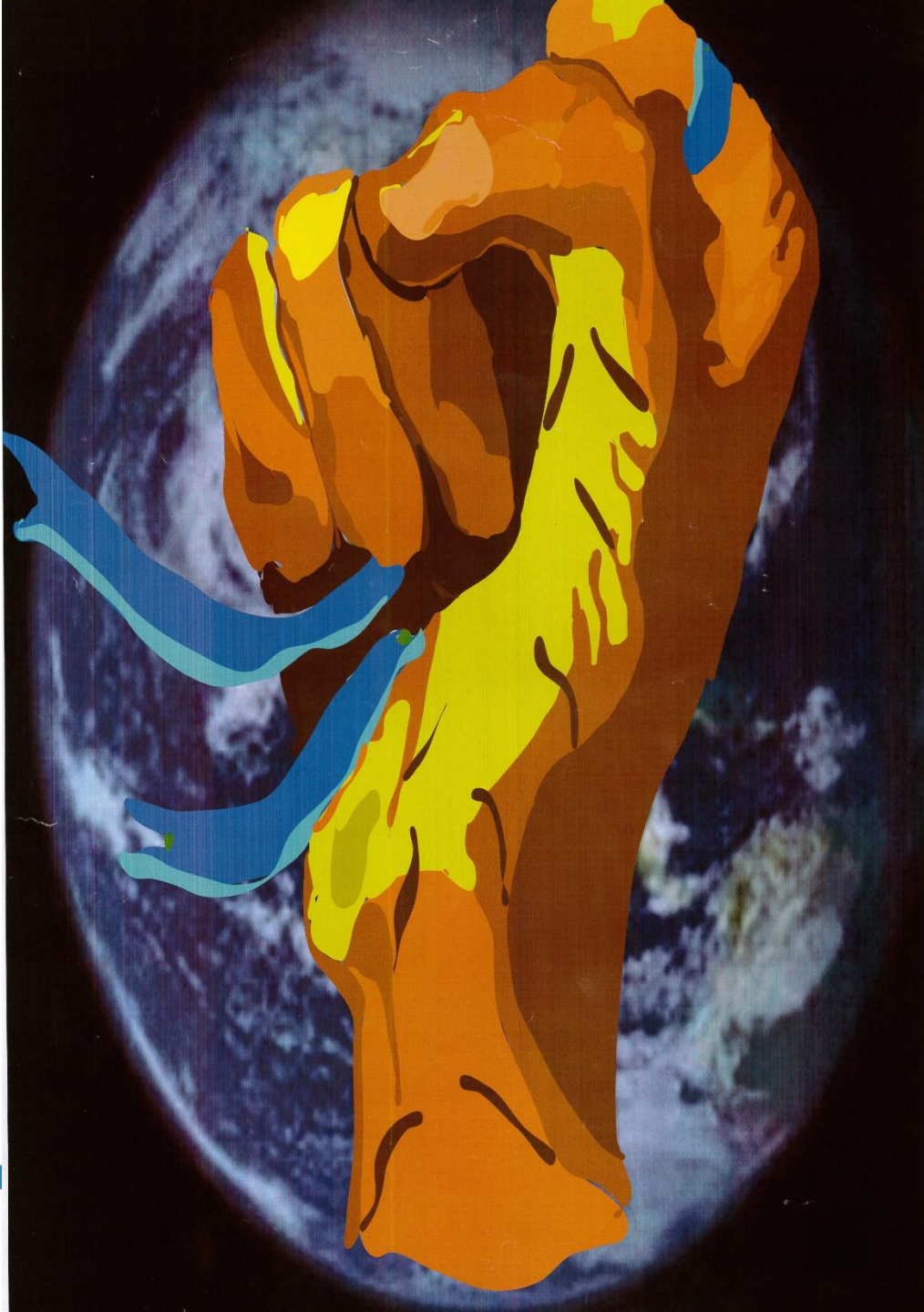


The Golden Rule

Max (age 8)

First I tie-dyed a white t-shirt blue to look like the heavens. I did this by putting loom bands on my t-shirt and leaving it in blue dye for 1 hour. I made the dye by mixing salt, water and the dye in a bucket. I had to stir the mixture every 5 mins. When it had been washed and dried this is what it looked like. Wear the Golden Rule on your chest with pride, and keep it in your heart! Next I made a heart out of buttons to show love and care which I think is the golden rule. I stuck the buttons on with the glue gun. The shirt shows that we all need to decide to live for others. I wanted to put a feather wings and a halo to show that if you love and respect people you will be like an Angel."





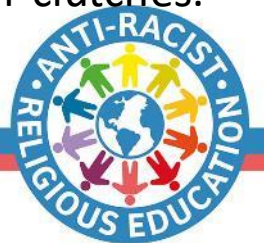
Hold onto Respect

Jed (age 14)

From a young age I have been taught the 'Golden Rule' without even realising it! My parents have encouraged me to be compassionate to others, to respect everyone and treat others as I would like to be treated. I wanted my image to be simple yet effective. Usually when you see a clenched fist it can symbolise anger, frustration and hatred. In fact my fist represents the need to hold on to what we know is right. The fist also represents the idea that we should all fight for what is right, to show respect, to care and not be angry, aggressive and selfish.

The blurred image of the world and the different colours on the fist were chosen to represent everyone. I didn't want to be seen to be targeting a specific group of people. In order for us to live in a harmonious society we all need to live by the 'Golden Rules'.

The blue ribbon flowing out of the fist represents hope. For me it reminds me of the calm and peace just like in the story of Noah, where the world was destroyed because of our failure to follow the 'Golden Rule'. The blue ribbon represents a fresh start, a new opportunity to make things better. We must hold onto our morals not let them escape from our clutches.





The Golden Rule

Isabel (age 12)

Do to others as you would like them to do to you. The Golden Rule. My artwork shows two people, one 'angel' and one broken puzzle of a human.

The angel appears to be hugging the human to maybe make them feel better. The angel, covered in a fiery pattern, suggests the angel has a warm heart. It also suggests the angel follows the Golden Rule. The angel's wings are rainbow coloured to symbolise the love that God has for us in many different forms. The human is made of jigsaw pieces: it only takes a little knock for us to fall apart.

Now for a little twist; the reason why I stated that the angel was a metaphor is because it's not there. It is (quite literally) the Golden Rule, and supports us when we need it, just like the 'angel' in my picture.



My Spirited Art

Louise (age 12)



I felt that anyone could live by the golden rule; this is the main theorem behind work. I decided to put my image in a street as everyone can relate to this location. In my image there are two types of people, the ones who are sinners, and the ones who embody the golden rule. I painted the sinners in mute, dark colours with little detail because they are of little interest in god and the world. The ones who live by the golden rule are seemingly on fire and are filled with happiness because god looks down on them with pride as he did with Adam and Eve. I was inspired by a range of different things. I walk to school on a variety of busy roads, often filled with commuters who are so absorbed in themselves that they ignore the beggars and the less fortunate. But then I notice the ones who do help, and they put a smile on my face. Then after I thought I realised that god must see them and smile too. This is my main inspiration.





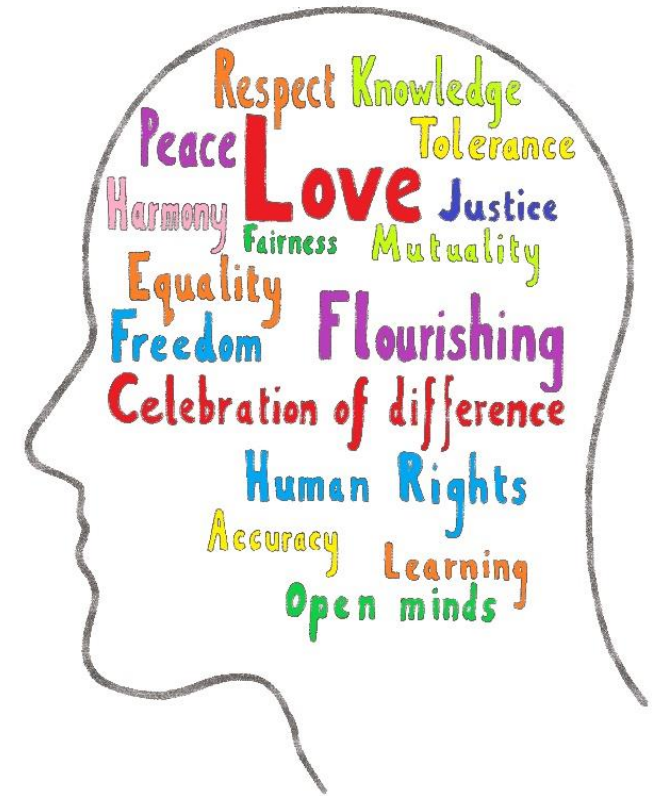
Which one did you like best? How will you make your own artwork about the Golden Rule?



'British values' and the Golden Rule

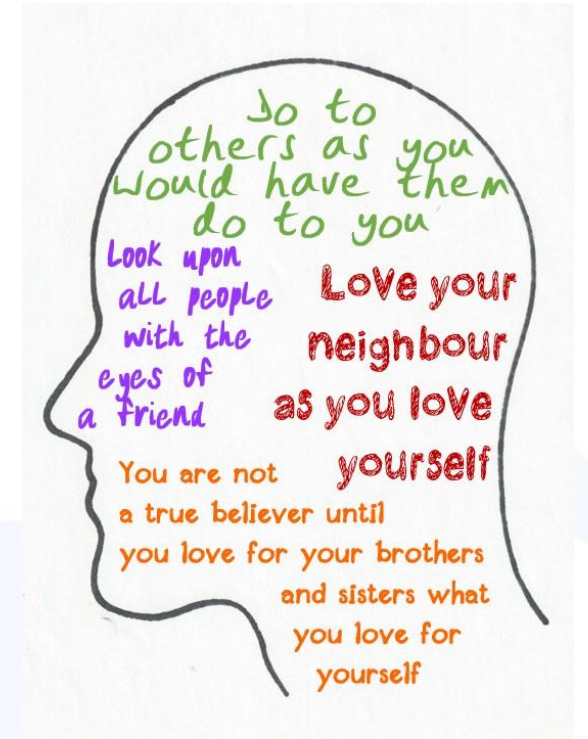
Consider these 5 sentences with pupils: Which ones do you agree with most and why?

- "Treating others as you want them to treat you is a democratic thing to do because it means each person counts for one in the community, whatever their race or religion."
- "We are all free, and nobody wants to be trapped or imprisoned. So our own feeling of loving freedom should help us to see that everyone else also deserves to be free. This is important where, for example, black people have been denied their rights in the past."
- "Do to others what you want done to you means that if you want your religion to be respected, you should respect other people's religions just the same."
- "The Silver Rule says 'don't hurt others, because you don't like being hurt yourself.' At the very least, we should accept people who are different and not harm them."
- "If you make rules and laws that apply to everyone just the same, prince or beggar, then that puts the Golden Rule to work in the whole country, for every ethnic group and every religion."



A change of mind?

- At the start, we asked: What's in your head? Some people say racism and hatred start in the mind – and we can change our minds.
- Did you change your mind at all today?



The impact of the learning

Can you say 'yes' to some of these? Well done!

Are you age 7-9? Can you:

- Identify and talk about the Golden Rule and the Silver Rule
- Consider a text from a religion which asks humans to give others the same love or rights or kindness they want for themselves
- Make links between expressions of the Golden Rule in different forms from different religions, answering the question: 'why are these two similar?'

Are you age 10-11? Can you:

- Describe three or more variations of the Golden Rule
- Consider texts and ideas about treating others as you want to be treated, applying the teaching to varied ethical dilemmas
- Explain links between following the Golden Rule and being anti-racist
- Express thoughtful views about how the Golden Rule could change their community and our whole society for the better.



Partners

This project is a partnership between the Free Churches Group, Methodist Schools, RE Today, NATRE and many teachers of RE and educators from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities who have become voluntarily involved.

Lat Blaylock, RE Today Adviser and Anti-Racist RE project co-ordinator, would like to thank all these partners for their contributions, work and inspiration.

