

Charity: Activity 1: Help or don't help

You come across someone in need lying in the middle of the street. Do you help or don't you? When you help someone, this is called **altruistic behaviour**- and there are many theories about why people are – or are not- altruistic.

Cut out the statements below and rank them according to which you believe to be the most important factors to be taken into consideration when people are deciding whether or not to help someone in need. Do this individually first and then in pairs, and then in groups. Justify your choice of ranking and try to reach agreement across the group about the ranking. What factors do people (and should people) take into account when deciding to help or not?

Your own moral code (your beliefs, values or religion – how far does that influence your actions?)
How close you are to the person in need – i.e. the person is a friend or relative
Whether there are other people around who can help, and how many people there are.
How far do you trust that the person in need is really in need (i.e. could this be some kind of trick?)
How far do you think that you have the right skills to help the person
How far do you think the person in need might present you with some kind of threat
The age of the person in relation to your age
The person in need's gender
How the person in need looks (their clothing and appearance for example)
If the person appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
How far the person seems to need your help

Charity: Activity 2: Key concepts in charity

Many of the words/concepts below are used in the context of charity. Sometimes they are stated as the motivations for acting charitably towards others. But what do they mean? For each of them, discuss in a group and come to a conclusion about your definition of each word/concept. Avoid looking the word up in a dictionary or online. What is interesting here is how you define each word/concept and why you think it is – or is not- important in relation to acting charitably.

Concept	Definition	Example linked to charity
Love		
Kindness		
Respect		
Tolerance		
Sharing		
Justice for All		
Equality		
Tradition		

Am I living my life to the fullest?

What am I passionate about?

How do I make decisions?

Who am I?
Self Reflection

What is my life's purpose?

What do I believe in?

What can I be certain of?

What worries me?



Religion, Beliefs and Values:
Values in Action

Diary

Name_____

Class_____

Date	Description of the activity I took part in...

Reflection Notes

How these activities have demonstrated my beliefs and/or values
How these activities have positively benefitted others

How these activities have allowed me to develop my beliefs and/or values

What I have learned about myself and/or others from these activities

Ways in which these activities have strengthened my beliefs and/or values

Ways in which these activities have challenged my beliefs and/or values

Reflection and Research Question Notes

Part of this programme is to allow you to compare and contrast your beliefs and values with the beliefs and values of a world religion. How similar are your beliefs and values to this world religion, and what are the reasons for your similarities and/or differences? You may of course consider yourself to be a religious person - or perhaps not. If you are, how far did you think your own religious beliefs and values were important in your work on this topic of charity (how prominent were they?) If you are not religious, how far did your beliefs and values match up with the key beliefs and values of one religion you examined

My choice of world religion

The key beliefs of this world religion in relation to charity are....

The key values of this world religion in relation to charity are.....

Points of similarity between my beliefs and values and those of the world religion I examined

Points of difference between my beliefs and values and those of the world religion I examined.