Enquiry: Why should we be good?

The Big Ideas	
Understanding	Philosophers such as Socrates and Plato believed that people behave badly because they lack true knowledge. By questioning our beliefs and seeking truth, we can better understand what is right and wrong and make wiser moral choices.
Moral behaviour	Different religions teach that our actions have consequences. Buddhism teaches karma and rebirth, while Christianity teaches judgement and life after death. These beliefs encourage people to act morally.
Duty	Some philosophers, such as Immanuel Kant, argued that we should be good because it is our duty, not because of rewards or punishments. Moral actions are right because they follow rules and principles that apply to everyone, even when doing so is difficult.

Three Key Questions

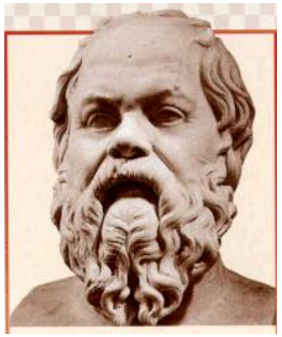
How can we discourage people from doing evil things?	Can we have too much of a good thing?	What can we learn about the meaning of life from the great philosophers?

Vocabulary

allegory	A metaphorical story (fable) with a deeper meaning
Reincarnation	A soul's passage from the body after death and its rebirth in a new body
Soul	A human being's essence, the ineffable part of a human unlimited by the body
Karma	The Buddhist concept that your good and bad actions will affect your future, particularly any future life

Important Philosophers

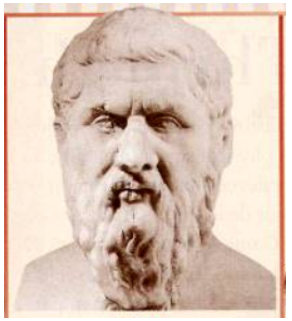
Socrates 469 - 399 B.C.



Socrates was one of the most powerful thinkers in history. He encouraged his students to examine their beliefs. Socrates asked them a series of leading questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions. This method of teaching by a question and answer approach is known as the Socratic method. He devoted his life to gaining self knowledge.

Plato 427 - 347 B.C.

Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a philosopher. He studied with Socrates. After his teacher died in 399 B.C., Plato left Greece and travelled to North Africa and Italy. He later returned to Athens and founded a school called The Academy in 387 B.C. The school lasted for approximately 900 years.



Theydon Bois Primary Knowledge Organiser: RE

Year 5 and 6

bhavacakra	A Buddhist depiction of the cycle of birth, life and death
deontological	An approach to moral philosophy that focuses on duty and rules – an action is bad if it breaks a moral rule and good if it follows one
utilitarian	An approach to moral philosophy that focuses on the consequences of actions, particularly on actions that promote happiness. Morally good actions are those that promote the greatest happiness for the most people.

"There is only one good, knowledge; and one evil, ignorance."

"Philosophy begins in wonder."

Philosophy Lens

Ask Questions as a Thinker

Think like a Philosopher

Explore Morals and Knowledge

The Bhavacakra Wheel of Life

The Bhavcakra is the wheel of life used in Buddhist teaching showing birth, life and death. In the middle of the wheel are the three causes of all suffering - known as the 'three fires'.

Luke 16: The Rich Man and Lazarus

Ring of Gyges

The Ring of Gyges is a mythical magical artefact mentioned by the philosopher Plato in The Republic. It granted its owner the power to become invisible at will.

We Are Learning To...

Explore and interpret Plato's thought experiment 'The Allegory of the Cave'.	Compare Karmic and Christian beliefs and how they affect moral behaviour.	Examine Buddhist teachings on how to live a good life.	Evaluate Kant's philosophical response to moral behaviour.	Compose an argument which includes ideas from religious and philosophical concepts.