

Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 9

Topic: Religion and Medical Ethics

Half Term: Autumn One

Key Terms

Morally	If something morally right, then you believe that it is the right thing to do. People have different ideas about morals.
IVF	This is when an egg is fertilised by a sperm artificially in a test tube.
Abortion	This is the act of deliberately ending a pregnancy.
Conception	This is when the woman's egg is fertilised by the man's sperm. Some consider this to be the start of a pregnancy.
Ethical	This is the same as being morally right.
Blood Transfusion	Blood from another person is put in to another.
Euthanasia	This is also sometimes called assisted suicide. It is the act of ending the life of a person who is suffering.
Informed Consent	Giving permission for someone to give you treatment whilst understanding all of the possible risks.
Plastic Surgery	Changing or repairing parts of the body through transfer of issue. This can be to treat an injury or for cosmetic reasons.
Cosmetic	This is about improving a person's appearance.



Although many Christians view IVF as part of God's gift of medicine, Roman Catholics disagree as they think a child should only be conceived by a married couple. In Hinduism couples are encouraged to have children either naturally or through IVF. IVF can be seen as a compassionate way to help people. Islam will sometimes allow IVF as fertility treatment can be seen as a gift from Allah. However, some Muslims believe it is God's will if someone can't have a child.



Many Christians are against abortion, as they believe that life begins at conception. Many Christians believe that abortion is wrong as they view it as ending a life which God has created. However, protestant churches would view it as a necessary evil if it was in the best interests of the mother. Most Buddhists would not be in favour of abortion, as they believe it prevents the foetus from paying back bad karma.

Christians believe that organ donation and blood transfusions are acts of kindness and should be encouraged. However, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the life is in the blood, and will not accept blood transfusions. Jewish people believe that they have a duty to preserve life, so Rabbis would allow both transplants and transfusions, however heart transplant is not allowed in case it caused the death of the person..



Euthanasia is not permitted by most Christians, and even viewed as murder by Roman Catholics. They believe that it breaks one of the ten commandments. Most Christians believe that the hospice movement is the compassionate and proper way to care for the dying. Most Muslims believe that only Allah should decide when people are born and when they die. Therefore they view euthanasia as going against Allah.

God created life in his own image - Genesis



Religious Teachings

God sends us and we take birth. God calls us back and we die - **Adi Granth (Sikh scriptures)**



Whoever saves a life, it would be as if he had saved the life of all people - **Qur'an**



Suggested Reading

- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Pig Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman

