

# JOIN US

**Atheist Ireland** is an advocacy group for atheism, reason and ethical secularism. We meet regularly for fun social events, interesting talks, and lobbying for religious equality.

**We are all volunteers.** We have no paid staff or State grants. We are not a charity, and we comply with Standards in Public Office political donations laws.

**Interested?** Email [info@atheist.ie](mailto:info@atheist.ie), and see if there is a group near you that will welcome you to a family-friendly Secular Sunday lunch to meet like-minded people.

[info@atheist.ie](mailto:info@atheist.ie)  
<http://atheist.ie>

<http://teachdontpreach.ie>  
[facebook.com/atheistireland](https://www.facebook.com/atheistireland)  
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# WHAT IS ATHEISM?

**Atheism** can mean anything from actively believing gods do not exist, to passively not believing gods exist. Most atheists believe gods exist only as ideas in minds. Most atheists are open to new evidence that we might be mistaken.

**Atheism** is a natural answer to the big questions of life. Most atheists believe the universe is broadly as it seems to be when we apply reason and science to the evidence of our senses. We do not need to invent gods to explain what we know or what we do not yet know.

**Atheism** is not a belief system, but two important beliefs do follow from atheism: that reality is not caused or revealed by gods, and that morality and judgments are not imposed by gods. These are two significant beliefs in a world where most people believe the opposite.

# ATHEIST IRELAND



**Why**  
**ATHEISM**  
**is Likely**  
**to be True**



## How do you know things?

**Faith** is an unreliable way of knowing what is true, and an unethical basis to live your life by. People of faith have many contradictory beliefs, with no way to know which, if any, of these beliefs are true or mistaken.

**Reason** applied to evidence is a more reliable way of knowing what is most likely to be true. Scientists test ideas against the evidence to remove human bias, and scientific answers can improve with new evidence.

## Some myths about atheism

**Atheism is not a religion.** Religions typically have belief systems, creeds and regulations revealed by supernatural intervening beings. Atheism has no revealed creeds, and atheists form our own beliefs. Atheist groups exist, but only because some religions try to impose their beliefs and rules on all of us. We promote reason, not religion.

**Atheism does not require faith.** Faith is belief that is disproportionate to the best available evidence. Atheism is proportionate to the best available evidence. There is no reasonable evidence to suggest that supernatural gods exist, and a lot of reasonable evidence to suggest that humans invented the idea to explain mysteries.

**Atheists don't have to disprove gods.** The onus of proof is on a person who is making a claim to justify that claim, not for others to disprove it. Most atheists simply have no good reason to believe that your god exists, in exactly the same way as you have no good reason to believe that the gods worshipped by other religions exist.

**We don't need religion for morality.** Morality is a natural process of our brains, based on empathy, compassion, reciprocity, cooperation, fairness and justice. Sacred books tell you to love your neighbour and kill them. Secular democracies typically have better social outcomes. Atheists and secularists are typically less racist, sexist and dogmatic.

**We don't want to ban religion.** Atheist Ireland supports the human right to freedom of religion and belief. We just want the State to stay neutral. For example, the State should not be funding schools that promote either religion or atheism. Atheist Ireland has another leaflet that outlines how you can help to support religious equality.

**Atheist Ireland  
is a member of  
Atheist Alliance  
International**  
[atheistalliance.org](http://atheistalliance.org)

