

## What is Druidism?

So your child or teenager has told you that they are interested in Druidism. As a parent you would naturally like to know whether Druidism is an ancient and impractical religion or something from a fantasy role playing game, or worse something evil and unsavoury. I have set out to try and put to rest your fears by explaining in a concise manner just what Druidism is all about.

Firstly I must introduce myself. My online name is Karayana and I am a council member at the New Order of Druids, which is a non-profit organisation based in Belgium. Our order is perhaps the only one that has PG rated forums and a forum specifically for young people. Parents are welcome to visit our site for themselves. Joining is free.

But now down to the nitty gritty. Druidism is a diverse way of life. It nurtures that diversity knowing that every person has views opinions and needs that are different to anyone else's. It is a spirituality that has no defined deities, and sees life in every form as being connected and sacred. Some people see Druidism as their religion, for others it is a way of life, much like Buddhism has become for many people. There are Christian Druids and Muslim Druids, and any religion is welcome.

A deep connection with nature runs through Druidism, fostering a feeling of responsibility for the earth, which is exactly what is needed with today's global problems of climate change and general destruction of habitats.

Although its roots are in the distant past this is not a backward looking spirituality. The beauty of Druidism is its ability to change with the times. There are no written down set beliefs or methods of being a Druid, every Druid is encouraged to think for themselves.

We do however have a few things in common! A love of nature, the planet, the stars and moon, the sun. We hold Truth in very high regard, along with responsibility, hospitality and love for all life.

We try to find ways to help our communities, be they local or global, and our ways are always peaceful.

Druidism does not worship the devil. This seems to be something that worries many. In fact we don't believe in the existence of a devil. Yes there is evil in the world but it is committed by humanity and our belief is that we should be responsible for any evil within ourselves. We strive to engage in life fully with body, mind and soul.

Another important area of Druidism is creativity. We cultivate the artist within each of us, allowing that creativity to emerge in whichever way suits the individual, be it poetry, story telling, painting, music. Allowing yourself contemplative time within nature draws out the creative forces from deep within you, your own inner beauty. Sharing that part of your self with others is a wonderful experience.

I have given you a very simplistic view of Druidism not wishing to bore you with many pages of text. I can recommend a book by Philip Carr-Gomm called "What Do Druids Believe?" It is a short book and is very useful for answering the many questions you still may hold. It is published by Granta ([www.granta.com](http://www.granta.com)).

If you would like to contact me with your questions you are very welcome, and as a parent myself I will be very understanding of your worries for your son or daughter. My email address is [karayana@druidcircle.net](mailto:karayana@druidcircle.net)

Lastly our website is [www.druidcircle.org](http://www.druidcircle.org). You are very welcome to come and look around.