

Spirited Arts and Spirited Poetry

This is an exciting RE project that you can do at home. Over 350 000 children and young people have entered a competition to make a work of art in RE in recent years. Now is your chance to do the same. There are £25 prizes for the winners, and your work may appear on our web gallery.

The art you make should be all about your own ideas on a big religious question. It can be 2D art, painting, drawing, pastel colours. It can be 3D, fabric or sculpture, video art, music or poetry. You will do your best work if you consider how other children have done the task.

This is RE: so expressing your own ideas and comparing them to ideas from different religions and beliefs is what it is all about. Good luck.

Look at the web gallery, and choose some favourite art

Here is a good place to start looking: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2019/?ThemeID=66>



If you prefer to start with poetry, here are some poems to look at – and listen to. <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-poetry-2019/spirited-poetry-collection/2019/?ThemeID=83>



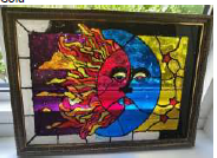


Imagine you are a judge for this competition. Look at ten or more examples from your age group, and select your three favourites for 'gold, silver and bronze' medals. Make a 3-minute pencil sketch of the three you like best, and say why you gave them prizes.

Three themes: choose one for your RE/art work

A. God's good earth? The beauty of the earth is celebrated in many religions, but the human spoiling of the earth is a danger and a coming crisis. Can you make a work of art that shows what you think about our beautiful world? Does it belong to God? To us? To all the animals? Should we pray for the world?

B. Holy Words! What words are holy for you? Select sayings or stories you love about peace, faith, unity, prayer or another spiritual idea. Incorporate your holy words into your art work. What is so great about the 'holy words' you chose? Can you use some quotes from holy books you love or have learned about in RE? What about some non-religious wise words?

C. Where is God? Is God in your heart? In prayer? In the temple or the universe? Or is she hiding? Is he not there at all? Looking for God is something almost everyone does sometimes but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a 'god-detector'? Can God be found by prayer? Use some ideas from different religions and beliefs and your own mind to make a work of art on this theme.

<p>Gold</p> 	<p>I am a dedicated Hindu, I decided to reflect on the question 'Where is God?'. In my artwork, the moon represents someone who might meditate or pray to find God in a spiritual sense. For instance, trying to find light in the darkest of days. The sun represents someone who wants to find God in a physical sense, like a being or object.</p>	<p>This is the best in my opinion because...</p>
<p>Silver</p> 	<p>The idea behind his artwork was that a person was questioning the location of God, therefore looked through 'binoculars' to reveal the answer to all of their doubts. Through the binocular, you can see a pair of hands holding the Earth.</p>	<p>I gave this a silver medal because...</p>
<p>Bronze</p> 	<p>Your life is like a rose. God is like a gardener. As he nurtures you and looks after you, you become stronger and more beautiful. Keep on reaching for the sky. Without the gardener there would be no flower, and without God, there would be no life or purpose. Believe.</p>	<p>This is an excellent piece of art because...</p>

When you have selected your 'gold / silver / bronze' pictures and explained your choices, then make a plan for your own work of art.

- Select the theme
- Consider what ideas you want to express
- Are there any scriptures, holy writings or wise words you can include?
- What will you need to make your art?

Class 3 from Grasmere school entered the Art in Heaven competition a couple of years ago. They installed their art in the local church. Remarkably, HRH Prince Charles was visiting and he met the children and saw their work. Be ambitious: you never know what might happen!



On a fresh sheet of paper, write about your art work. Choose at least 8 of these 16 prompts.

- The title I chose is ... because ...
- The deepest thing about my work is ...
- I think my work connects to religion because ...
- A quote from a holy book that fits with my work is ...
- I've been investigating ...
- This picture is all about ...
- My 'Art is Heaven' work is about ...
- In RE it is good to explore ... so ...
- Doing this work has made me think ...
- I've tried to show my thoughts / ideas / vision / feelings by ...
- In my picture, you can see ...
- What I like best about my work is ...
- I hope people will notice ...
- This work has helped me to realise ...
- To make the image, what I did was ...
- I like the theme I have been working on because...

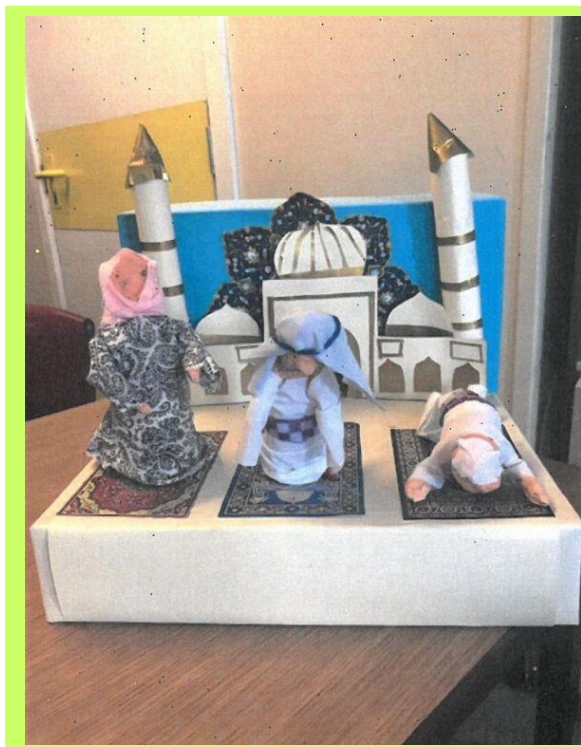
Entering your work for the competition

The 2020 competition has a closing date on 31st July. Judging will take place over the summer and prizes of £25 vouchers will be awarded to the winners.

The website shows schools how to enter, and your teacher may ask you send your work in to school, but because so many people are learning at home at the moment, we will accept entries posted to us at NATRE / Spirited Arts, 5-6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham B30 3FH

Make sure your work is marked with your name, age and school (if your work is selected for the website galleries, we will not identify you of course).

Bulky or 3D work can be photographed and submitted online. See the website for further details <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2020/>



Angelina:

“The title I chose is pray! Because in the religion I chose (Islam) it is one of their five pillars of Islam – Salah. It is important also as it is done 5 times a day. In my sculpture you can see the family doing the prayer positions of the First Rakah, raying on praying carpets in front of a Mosque. What I like best about my work is that it shows more than just the praying positions but also shows a model of a mosque, tapestry and carpet. If you look carefully at the work you can also see all the little things I included to make it look good for example the tiny strips of gold trimming on the sandy-white paper to make to the mosque.”