

SPIRITED ARTS

2021
ART &
POETRY

COMPETITION

The National Association of Teachers of RE

2021 Themes

Create your competition entry using poetry, drawing, painting, video, sculpture or other media!

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| <p>“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.”</p> | <p>We are delighted to partner with the Jo Cox Foundation to run this theme. The quote from Jo Cox MP introduces this theme which is about the question: are we one human race, despite our differences and divisions? We are all different, and all religions are different – but are we all the same too? Can we all be united? What holds humanity together? Is it faith? Hope? Love? Music? What threatens to tear us apart? How can we overcome the divisions that affect us? Use some specific religious ideas and quotes in this. Make a work of art that shows what unites us, brings us together, joins humans as one people and expresses our harmony. Use the disciplines of theology, but also of psychology and sociology to explore the questions and create your responses.</p> |
| <p>God’s good earth? (“Beautiful World, wonderful God?”)</p> | <p>Are we spoiling God’s good earth? Does the Earth belong to God? Should we be thankful for it? Can we save it in time from the threats of climate change? The beauty of the earth is celebrated in many religions, but the human spoiling of the earth is a danger and a coming crisis. In this theme, learners are invited to explore ideas and beliefs about the natural world, human responsibility for the earth and ways of praying about climate justice. Great work will show some originality: the globe in God’s hands won’t win! Challenge pupils to use scripture quotations thoughtfully, but also the methods of scientific enquiry and moral study to develop deep answers and good writing to go with stunning images.</p> |
| <p>Where is God?</p> | <p>Atheists, agnostics and believers in God might all respond to this by expressing their sense of the search for God or finding God. Where’s God? In your heart? In prayer? In the temple or the universe? Or is she hiding? Is he not there at all? Unreal? Imaginary? Looking for God, searching for him or her, matters to many, but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a ‘god-detector’? Is God on Instagram or WhatsApp? Can God be found by prayer or by looking among the world’s suffering people? This popular ‘Art in Heaven’ theme produces great work where pupils use ideas from religions clearly: The Jewish Psalms 42 and 43 are where it starts. Use theological reflection as well as philosophical argument to make great work.</p> |
| <p>Healing</p> | <p>Do you believe in healing? Religions love to tell stories of healing, of body, mind and spirit. Jewish scripture has healing stories: God tells Moses ‘I am God who heals you.’ Sarah is healed so that she can have a child. Naaman, a foreigner, is cured of leprosy. In Christianity, Jesus is a famous healer, helping people with blindness, deafness or many afflictions. Hindus travel to the Balaji Mandir in Rajasthan seeking healing. Christians go to Lourdes, in France. But not everyone gets healed. And anyway, maybe having our minds or souls healed is more important than bodily healing. And some atheist philosophers argue that religious healing is always a con trick of some kind. Make a work of art that explores a story of healing, or the whole idea. Use methods from theology and philosophy to make sure your work is deep!</p> |
| <p>Inspiring!</p> | <p>What inspires you? A song? A quote? Another person’s life? A place? Religion offers people inspiration to live. Sometimes an inspirational life, a person’s example, a text or a piece of music crystallizes our inspiration. In this theme, you are invited to identify what inspired you from a religion or from your own worldview – it doesn’t have to be your own faith, as inspiration tends to spill over the edges of religions. Explain through your art and text what connects your inspiration to spiritual or religious life. You might use methods from the creative arts that relate to spirituality as you understand it.</p> |

What can I submit?

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Sculpture



You can enter individually, in pairs or groups.



Could Britain be a rainbow nation?

Isla (age 11)

"I started my work after the death of Jo Cox MP I used her quote: "Whilst we celebrate our diversity, we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than that which divides us".

I then made draws inside each draw is a quote from different religions that talk about equality and dignity and respect, with this quote there is a handmade jigsaw piece that can be fitted together to make a jigsaw of hands being united. On the map I have cut out individual faces to ask that we should embrace our difference and live in a world of respect. Around the edge of the model I have written the lyrics to Ebony and Ivory: "We all know that people are the same where ever you go There is good and bad in ev'ryone. We learn to live, when we learn to give." Collectively we need to respect and understand each others differences and show kindness to all. I found producing this model a very reflective time I was able to think about how I can encourage others to show kindness and respect to all, in the hope that we can live not judging by what others look like or where they are from but by their heart and the love that is shown towards all people."





Jesus: My Inspiration

Tamsin, 12, made this picture of a Bible story where Jesus calms a storm to save his disciples lives when their boat was nearly wrecked. Jesus walks on water!

She says 'I think the story can be a good metaphor for calming other things, for example calming people'.

Humanity's God complex. Artist is 15.

“Humans are ruining the earth because we think we are gods. We behave as if we are all powerful, but we are stupid. A man wearing a blindfold which says ‘God Complex’ below two hands copied from the Michaelangelo painting of God creating Adam, God’s gift of life to humanity.

A ‘God-complex’ is a psychological disorder. Those afflicted believe themselves to be infallible, worth more than other people, blinded by their own arrogance and hubris – as the blindfold here shows. Such a ‘god complex’ means that a person may fail to acknowledge any evidence of a power higher than themselves. The blindfolded man refuses to acknowledge God, breaking the link between human and divine.

I wanted the unnatural and inhuman bright colours I used to paint the man to create a surreal and dehumanising effect: he believes himself to be, wants to be, more than human. While painting the hands of God and Adam, I used more naturalistic colour. I wanted to ‘humanise’ God. There is a disparity between these hands and the man, showing just how distorted man has become, far from the image of God. This distortion may ruin the earth.”



Video player



Jenny (Age 10)

Stopsley Community Primary School

Where Is God?

"Where is God on this planet?

Making people frantic,

I don't know his appearance,

So how am I meant to find him?

Muslims believe God can't be drawn

But if I was God that would make me forlorn,

the Hindu God has four faces,

Who all care for different cases.

God is the guard of heaven,

God is the guard of hell,

He protects the living

And watches over the dead.

Lots of people think God is brave,

But if he is so courageous

Why is he cowering away?

I've looked in the Church

I've looked in the Mosque,

I've looked everywhere but now I am lost!

Not physically, but mentally.

Maybe God is lost as well."

Niamh (Age 12)

Chesham Grammar School

My Turn To Hide

"I counted to ten, shouted "here I come!"

I searched in the kitchen,where could he be?

I checked the fridge,the cupboards and the washing machine,

But all I found was cheese,salt and pepper,

And a few of my sister's dirty sweaters,

Next was the bedroom, I looked all around,

I listened for movement, but there was no sound,

I tried the bathroom but alas no luck,

All i found was a rubber duck,

Head hanging low, I had given up,

When all of a sudden God said, "look up!"

I looked in the mirror and what did I see,

God was standing there beside me!

God would always be by my side,

I grinned and said, "It's my turn to hide."

Stuart (Age 11)

St Johns Church of England Primary School

Hope In The Darkness

I walk to see my hero die,

As tears gather in our collective eyes.

A broken Jesus holding a cross,

All hope in me was lost.

Whipped and beaten in thunder and lightning

I felt like a thousand angles lost their wings

Weak and trembling he got tied by his wrists

As he screamed in pain in the dark mist

He turned his head to see a weak and blonde man

He was a murderer and when caught,ran.

He did crimes and didn't care,

The punishment for this sinner was totally fair.

After that he turned to the right,

A guilty man full of fright.

Although his actions were sick and gross,

He was truly sorry and that's hat matters most.

Beside him two men. One evil one great,

They thought that forgiveness in them was way too late.

They were all going to their eternal rest,

Just then Jesus showed the hope in the darkness.

You need to explain your piece of artwork like the previous examples.

Prompts for pupils' writing

Pupils might use a selection of these. Approximately 8 makes a good set, but please don't use them all!

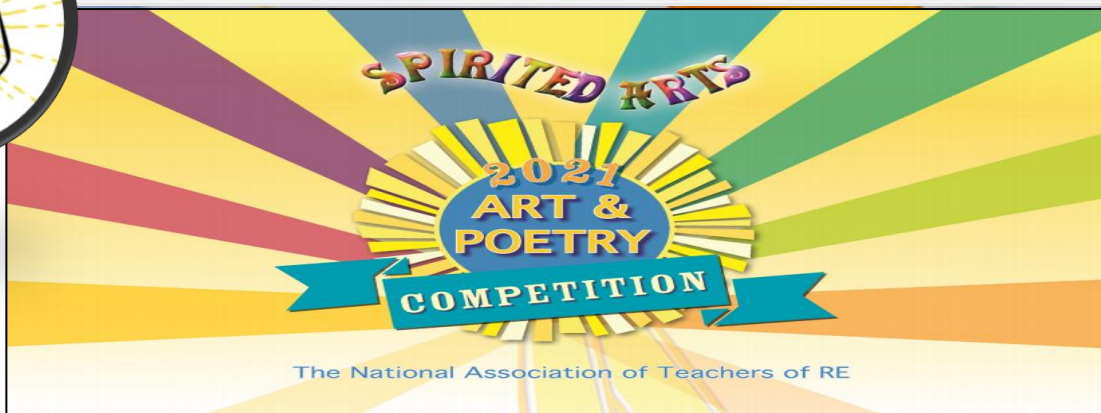
Adapt them freely for different age groups and in any way suitable. Written commentary on artwork should be under 400 words.

- The title I chose is ... because ...
- The deepest thing about my work is ...
- The religion that inspired my work is ...
- My RE art work ...
- This art work is spiritual because ...
- 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 ...
- I've discovered ...
- 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 ...
- If you look carefully at the work, you will see ...
- My vision is ...
- To make the image, what I did was ...
- I like the theme I have been working on because ...
- My main ideas are ...
- My inspiration came from ...
- While I was making this, I thought a lot about ... and I would like to say ...

We will be awarding prizes in school and entries will be sent to NATRE who will award prizes to the best 25 entries (amazon vouchers).

Deadline: Thursday 24th June 2021

Hand your submission to your RE teacher or Miss Hyland (or send a picture if it is a sculpture).



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