

We are thrilled to announce the themes for the 2024 Spirited Arts competition. 2024 is the 20th anniversary of the competition, which we hope will be our biggest and best yet.

There will be up to 40 prizes – usually Amazon vouchers - for the competition plus certificates for all schools entering to give to their pupils.

<p>Faith in humanity: "No to racism, yes to respect"</p>	<p>RE makes a good contribution to anti-racist education by teaching pupils about the wisdom of faiths and worldviews on human equality and by challenging negative attitudes. We are all different, and all religions are different - but are we all the same too? What holds humanity together? Is it faith? Hope? Love? Music? Sport? What threatens to tear us apart - racism, hatred, bigotry? How can we conquer the forces of division? You should use specific ideas and quotes from religions and worldviews. Make a work of art that shows what unites us, brings us together, joins humans as one people and expresses our harmony. Think carefully about how racism can be reduced and conquered for a better human race.</p> <p>Generously sponsored by the Church of England Education team.</p>
<p>Looking beyond</p>	<p>Challenge your pupils to create a piece of art that shows something they have learned in RE that surprised them and made them see the world, life, in a fresh way. This theme invites pupils to stretch their vision beyond their own horizon and look at the world in a new way. RE encourages dialogue between different worldviews, and a great stimulus for this theme is a visit to an unfamiliar place of worship or a visit that enables an encounter with a new worldview. We think this will not be the most popular theme - is it harder than the others? - but it will produce really insightful work.</p>
<p>Where is God today?</p>	<p>Atheist, agnostics + theistic pupils can all respond to this theme. Express your ideas about the search for 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? A cruel joke? 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, TikTok 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 religious and / or non-religious worldviews clearly: The Jewish Psalms 42 and 43 are where it starts - there are parallels in many scriptures. Use theological reflection as well as philosophical argument to make great work.</p>
<p>Wise words? Holy words?</p>	<p>Sources of wisdom in scripture are highly valued by billions: Bible and Quran are the world's most popular books. But what do the pupils think is wise? Song lyrics? Proverbs? Gospels? Hadith? And how do wise words translate into beautiful art? This theme encourages pupils to take some wise words they have chosen themselves, including some from different religions perhaps, and reflect on the words and the wisdom in their art. The question marks in the title encourage pupils to think about what makes these words wise or - for some - holy. We like the idea that calligraphy as an art form will work for some pupils here, and that a focus on sacred text in examination work will bring in entries from older pupils. The British Library website's 'SACRED' section is a great resource.</p>
<p>Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth']</p>	<p>Many religions thank God for nature, from Aardvarks to Zebras, via cats, elephants and rabbits. But the climate crisis deepens. Are we spoiling God's good earth? Can we save it - and ourselves - in time from the threats of climate change? In this theme, learners are invited to explore ideas and beliefs about the natural world, animals and the environment, 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>

Why do Animals Matter?

This theme invites creativity and critical thinking around the important issue of how we humans value and act towards other animals. Use of religious story, texts and ideas is strongly encouraged! Religions and ethical belief systems promote kindness and compassion, and call upon people to actively avoid doing harm... the Golden Rule demands that we treat others how we would wish to be treated. But do these moral codes extend to animals as well as other humans? Can they? Should they? Do some animals matter more than others? Engaging with this theme will encourage a search for wisdom in texts, stories, traditions and practices from the world's religions and philosophies. Students will reflect and think with care about humanity's relationship with the other animals who share the earth with us. Younger children may express the spirituality of their love for animals. Older students may grapple with diverse opinions on animal welfare and rights.

Generously sponsored by Veganism in Education (VinE) and the Animal Interfaith Alliance (AIA).

About Spirited Arts

No charge: Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, grant funders past and present, and NATRE, this fantastic competition is **free to enter**.

A competition for all pupils: winners in recent rounds of Spirited Arts include children in early years, pupils with the widest range of special needs imaginable, A level students and all in between.

What makes a winner? The judges look for work that is artistically well crafted, and which responds to the themes with specific reference to religion and worldviews - winners will be 'real RE', making use of **sacred text, religious** or **spiritual concepts**. We also look for an element of originality

All age themes: each theme is suited to both primary and secondary pupils: teachers are advised to share them with RE classes in age-appropriate ways, and make sure that pupils can respond at their own level, whether they are 4 or 14, 8 or 18.

Prizes: prizes will be awarded to about 40 winners - usually these are Amazon vouchers. Sometimes we are able to make a slightly larger award for a class or group entry.

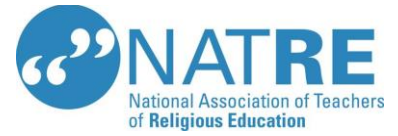
YouTube clips and a PowerPoint illustrating the themes with pupils' work will be available in both primary and secondary versions as soon as possible and make a great way of introducing the competition - in a lesson, or to the whole school in assembly. Closing date is 31st July 2024, and all details are online here: www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts

Many media: entries in all creative forms are welcome: previously winners have written poetry, composed and recorded a song, made models from many materials, created felting, quilting and tapestry, produced a short video... most entries continue to be 2D artworks. Please do not post anything larger than A3 into the NATRE office.

Group work: we are often delighted by brilliant entries from teams made up of several learners, a whole class or even a whole school. Collaborative entries are welcome.



Spirited Arts 2024



Where does Spirited Arts fit into the RE curriculum? Some teachers choose the theme for the work and use it as part of a unit of RE work. Some schools have an arts day or arts week. Some schools get every pupil to enter. In other settings, it is voluntary. Some schools use one of the themes as part of examination studies: this works very well.

We welcome **international** entries and entries from **faith community** groups in the UK.

Work can be submitted **online or by post**. If you submit online then good quality photos or scans are needed, so that judges can assess the merits of the work fairly. Work submitted to the competition becomes the property of NATRE and may be used in our RE publishing and online support. Pupils will not be identified individually of course.