

Spirited Arts and Spirited Poetry

This is an exciting RE project that you can do at home. Over 350 000 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 or spiritual 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 students 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. You will be thinking about the views of believers, atheists, Christians, Muslims, all the lot! But most of all about your own views. Good luck.

Look at the web gallery, and choose some favourite art.

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. Don't just judge the picture, but also the writing other students have done. Give them 'marks out of ten' for the art and for the written thoughts.

If you are working on a computer, select your three favourites, copy them and the texts that go with them into a three column Word document, and in the third column write your 'judges comments' to say what makes them great, and what your scores were.

If you are working only on paper, draw two columns onto your page, with three rows each. Make a 3-minute pencil sketch of the three you like best and say why you gave them prizes.

Here is a good place to start: <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. Choose examples from students who are close to your own age.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/aboutatre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-poetry-2019/spirited-poetry-collection/2019/?ThemeID=83>



Three themes: choose one for your RE/art work

- A. God's good earth?** Are we spoiling God's good earth? 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. 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? What do the scriptures say about, for example, God as creator?
- 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 artwork. What is so great about the 'holy words' you chose? Use quotations 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? 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'? Is God on Instagram, tiktok or whatsapp? Can God be found by prayer? Use varied views from different religions and beliefs and your own ideas to make a work of art on this theme.

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| <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?
- How will your art get to grips with views and ideas you disagree with?
- What will you want to write about your biggest spiritual or religious thoughts?

Lizzie, 15: 'Black and white world' "I have shown members of the KKK burning a cross: how sick was the world in which Martin Luther King lived! I've pictured Martin and his childhood friend, scared and confused through no fault of their own. I was going to use a dove to represent hope, but it's pure white. I chose a parrot for the Spirit of Hope: the world as it should be: full of all colours, all equally lovely."



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

- The title I chose is ... because ...
- My 'Art is Heaven' work is about ...
- To make the image, what I did was ...
- The deepest thing about my work is ...
- I think my work connects to religion because ...
- Quotes from holy writings that connect to my work include ...
- I've been influenced by...
- The big ideas I've been considering include...
- 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, the artistic style has ...
- What I am pleased with about my work is ...
- I hope people will notice ...
- Spiritually, this work has helped me to realise ...
- 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 three themes will also be open for entries into the competition for 2021.

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/>



Your Request Has Been Denied

By Penny, 15

'Your request...' represents the feeling that God, if he exists, is unreachable and hidden.

When we need God most, such as the peril the girl is facing, we reach out. No one grabs our hand. The masses of paper falling from the sky are a suggestion that our prayers never reach anyone. Cast up to the sky they fall back down again.

The phrase 'your request has been denied', written on every piece of paper, is a suggestion that I can't reach God. I feel it is very unlikely that God exists. This is what my paint and ink expresses."