

# SPIRITED ARTS



## Themes

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

<b>Holy Space?</b>	This theme asks pupils to think about holy buildings and places of worship or pilgrimage. Perhaps one(s) they have visited? Can they show in a work of art what makes these places special, sacred or holy? Are they friendly places? Peaceful? Good places for thinking, praying or feeling close to God? Children might design their own holy space. Some entries will focus on the idea of holy spaces in the natural world as well: mountain top, river side, sunset beach. What about a holy city? Encourage pupils to read and use scriptures from different religions about what makes a place holy. We'd love to see work on Varanasi, Makkah, Bethlehem, Bodh Gaya, Jerusalem and Amritsar.
<b>Pray! [Reflect! Meditate!]</b>	Many religions use prayer – for many reasons. Art work on this theme might refer to the Christian Lord's Prayer, or to the Islamic Pillar of 5 Daily Prayers, or the Hindu mantras. It could be about praying alone to connect with God, or about praying in community to connect with each other. You might also consider the practice of reflection and meditation in Buddhist life, for example. Then there are the arguments that say prayer is not heard, not answered, a waste of breath. How do students respond to questions about answered prayer, and unanswered prayer?
<b>Doubt &amp; Faith</b>	What beliefs do you doubt? What actually is faith – a good thing, or a bad thing? This theme invites pupils to explore doubt and faith: are they opposites, or does faith need doubt? Does science call faith into question, or do religious scientists understand the world better because of faith? When people suffer or experience evil, then they may doubt God and lose faith – but others find their faith helps them in dark days. What makes the difference? This is our most philosophical theme this year, but it is not only for secondary students: primary entries welcome.
<b>Looking for God?</b>	We have often found the theme about God is the most popular in this competition: atheists and believers of all kinds all have something to say about God and where to find him – or her. Is God nowhere, or hiding? Is God in your heart, or in the scriptures? Is God far away, or close? Can we find God in nature, or in worship? Do some people find God in suffering or pain? Whatever you think, show your ideas about the search for God in creative work that goes deep. Use a holy text or saying if you like (the theme comes from the Jewish Psalms, 42 + 43). Be deep, and be subtle: a bearded man on a cloud won't win!
<b>Making Peace</b>	Our communities need peace, and the news mentions religious conflict all the time. What can be done to make peace? RE explores teachings and example of religion and conflict as well as peace making. Ask pupils to create artwork that shows not just the concept of peace, but a way of making peace. Explore some texts from scriptures. Work may be about peace between religions – referring to great peacemakers in the world today. Then there is peace in human hearts and minds: many people use spiritual practice and meditation to seek peace, or find peace at their temple or church. How would you make a work of art to show this? Winning work will be clearly engaged with religion and belief.

# Online submission form

<http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/submit-your-entry/>

All entries need to be submitted via our online form. This creates a log of all entries, and our mailing list for certificates and prizes. Visit our website (address above) to enter the details of all entries you are sending to us. The form should only take five minutes to complete.

You will need to provide the following details:

- School name
- School address
- Teacher name
- Email address
- Pupil name
- Pupil age
- Theme of entry (select from drop-down list)

You are able to upload digital images and write-ups if you wish, though **where possible we prefer if you can post the artwork to us**. These **MUST** be submitted as JPEG images no larger than 5MB. Write-ups must be typed (or copied & pasted) into the text box provided, and cannot be submitted as word or PDF files.

Write-ups and images should be supplied together. Please do not send pictures via post and write-ups via the online form, for example. We are not able to match these up for judging.

If you choose to upload images please ensure they do justice to the pupil's work. We receive a high volume of entries that are taken from quite a distance or are of poor quality. This makes it difficult to judge the work.

Alternatively you can email images and write ups to [chelsey@natre.org.uk](mailto:chelsey@natre.org.uk) after completing the school and pupil details sections of the online form.

## Entering the 2018 'Art in Heaven' Competition

### Making your entries:

*The competition is open to all pupils aged 4–19. Use the official submission form on the NATRE website. You must attach the label provided from the online form to all work. We receive thousands of pieces of work, so please take care to follow the submission instructions as we may not be able to accept any work entered incorrectly.*

- Pupils should write briefly about their artwork. Some suggested prompts for this are provided, but free writing is encouraged. A single A4 sheet of 400 words is the maximum size for pupils' commentaries.
- Entries sent in to NATRE must be no larger than A3 in size. Good digital photos of 3D or larger entries are welcome.
- Schools may send **no more than 10 entries** to the national competition. School-based or local judging can take place before these are selected and sent.
- No entries will be entered into the competition unless they arrive at NATRE on or before **31 July 2018**.
- Entries via ICT, digital video and other multimedia approaches, as well as group entries are encouraged. Copyrighted music and images cannot feature on our website so please avoid these.
- All entries become the property of NATRE, the National Association for Teachers of RE. They may be used in web and other publishing materials. We're sorry we are not able to return them.
- Winning and a small number of commended entries will be added to the 'Art in Heaven' web gallery.

# 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 ...**

# ENTRY CHECKLIST

Before sending any entries to NATRE please run through the following checklist to ensure your pupils' work is entered into the competition correctly. Logging all the artwork takes a long time, so any entries submitted incorrectly may not be included in the competition.

- **Online submission form has been completed**
- **If you are posting entries to us: every piece of artwork has been labelled with pupil name, age, theme and school details as well as the information provided from the online submission**
- **A hard copy of the submission form has been printed and enclosed with any postal entries**
- **All digital entries have appropriate file names (pupil name, age, chosen theme and online submission reference number)**
- **Digital entries are JPEG format and are of high quality, doing justice to your pupils work**
- **Any CDs or USBs sent via post have full school details enclosed and all files contained are properly labelled**
- **All entries have been sent before 29 July 2018 to ensure they arrive at NATRE on or before 31 July 2018**

If you have any questions about sending your artwork please get in touch via email or by calling our office on 0121 458 3313