

## Themes for the NATRE 'Art in Heaven' competition 2009

Theme	For the teacher	For the pupil:
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mystery!</b></p> 	<p>This theme is about the ultimate questions or mysteries of life. Don't let pupils think of any old mystery here – encourage them to get into the biggest and most spiritual mysteries they can think of. When it comes to the art work the mystery may be simply expressed in simple images, or more complex. Winners will express a deep mystery in image and words with real insight of their own, connecting religion and life.</p>	<p><b>Life is full of spiritual mysteries.</b> Why are we here? What are we for? Where do we come from? Where do we go? How do we know? Religions all have mysteries. Sometimes they suggest answers to the mysteries too. Create a work of art about your ideas on the theme of mystery.</p> <p>Where is the love? Who designed the tulips? Why is humanity so beautiful? And why so destructive? Can music bring peace? Is life more precious than gold?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Open Minded!</b></p> 	<p>This is a theme about community cohesion. RE is really good at enabling pupils to think outside of the box. Being open minded is a value almost everyone admires – no-one wants to be a bigot. But it's not often that you meet someone who really is open minded &amp; sees every other viewpoint, religious or atheist, as it is.</p>	<p><b>Everybody likes being open minded</b> – but what does it mean? All religions teach openness, but they don't always practise it! Create an image about being big hearted, broad minded and living together with people you disagree with. Different religions can co-operate. Show our judges your ideas about the open mind in pictures and words.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Life is sacred"</b></p> 	<p>For some learners this theme will give them the chance to say what they love about life: what makes their life special or holy? Others might focus on the ethics of life at birth and death. Why is life priceless? This theme may look as if it will appeal to ethics students 14-19, but younger pupils have much to say about the value of a human life too.</p>	<p><b>Priceless holy and sacred – that's human life.</b> What makes a baby a symbol for hope, a sign of joy? What is the special dignity of old age? Why are choices about life and death so hard, and so important? Religions have lots to say about life as a precious gift. Design and make your work of art to show your own views and questions about the holiness of life</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Justice for Everyone</b></p> 	<p>This theme is about how religions and belief systems seek justice for all people. Good work will express clearly a link between faith and action, between the teaching of sacred texts and a modern problem, or between prayer for peace and action for peace.</p>	<p><b>Fairness matters!</b> Seeking justices is difficult. You might show a faith based charity in action: Islamic Relief, Christian Aid or one of many others can be your inspiration. Or maybe you want to reflect your own hopes for a just world in a striking symbol or a powerful image.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Who is God?</b></p> 	<p>In this theme, pupils are invited to think about God as they see him – or her. Some stories from faith communities answer this question. Many pupils will have their own idea. Winning work in this area will express an insight into these kinds of question: what is God like? How do we know? How does God show us who he is? Mix faith and doubt with theology and philosophy in paint, collage or video.</p>	<p><b>Who is God?</b> What do you think? Is God a person like us, or completely different? What image will express your ideas? Atheists and agnostics may say 'God is nobody' or 'God is a person no one knows' Different religions say some things similar and some different about God's identity. What do you have to say about this, and how will you express it artistically?</p>

## Notes on entering the 2009 Art in Heaven Competition

For 2009, there are special categories for digital video and for group entries. We especially welcome entries from 16-19 students in FE colleges and sixth forms. There will be some special prizes for 16-19 work this year.

### Making your entries:

- The competition is **open to all** pupils aged 4-19.
- **Pupils should write** briefly about their art work. Some suggested prompts for this follow below, but free writing is encouraged.
- Entries should be **not larger than A3** in size. Good digital photos of 3-D entries are welcome.
- Schools may send **no more than 8 entries** to the national competition. School based or local judging can take place before these are sent.
- No entries will be awarded prizes unless they arrive at NATRE on or before **31<sup>st</sup> July 2009**.
- All entries must have the **pupils' name, age, school address** and email address clearly marked on them (on the back is fine).
- It is a huge help to us in processing thousands of entries if you send **a list of the pupils**, their names, ages and the titles of their work. This can be handwritten, but a digital list on a spreadsheet is even better. See the fourth page of this guidance note.
- FE and other **16-19 entries** are especially encouraged.
- Entries via **ICT**, digital video and other multimedia approaches, and group entries, are encouraged ~ special mention will be made on the website of the best of these. Copyright music or images should not be used.
- Judges have often awarded commendations and prizes to pupils from **SEN settings**.
- Entries become the property of NATRE the National Association for Teachers of RE. They may be used in web and other **publishing**.
- Winning and commended entries will be added to **the Art in Heaven web gallery**.

### Send your entries to:

Art in Heaven,  
NATRE  
1020 Bristol Road,  
Selly Oak  
Birmingham  
B29 6LB.



Thanks to our sponsors, the Westhill Trust and Christian Aid for their generous support.

We are pleased to receive entries via email - digital photography of 3D entries has been popular in previous competitions. Send to: [retoday@retoday.org.uk](mailto:retoday@retoday.org.uk)

The Web gallery for the previous competitions is at: <http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts>

We recommend pupils look at the gallery to see what inspires them – reviewing the gallery and choosing their own favourites is a great homework.

**Entries from teachers:** we are happy to accept art work created by teachers for the competition. We think it is good practice to model learning for pupils yourself, and any teacher who feels creative and wants to make an entry is invited to send one in addition to the 8 submitted from the school. Please mark these entries clearly – but not necessarily with your age.

**Prompts for pupils' writing**

**(pupils might use a selection of these. Adapt them freely for different age groups and in any way suitable)**

In my 'Art in Heaven' work, I have shown...

This picture is all about...

Doing this work has made me think...

The title I've chosen is... because...

What is spiritual in my work is...

I've tried to show my thoughts / ideas / feelings by...

To make the image, I used...

What I like best about my work is...

The deepest thing about my work is...

This work has helped me to realise...

If you look carefully at the work, you will see...

My main ideas are...

While I was making this, I thought a lot about... and I would like to say...

**SPIRITED ARTS**



**Spirited arts Entries form: it helps us to log thousands of entries if you complete and send this table to us digitally**

Name of pupil	Age	Theme	Pupil's title for the work	School address	Teacher's name	Teacher's email
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Comments on this year's competition:

Thank you from NATRE for all the time and effort involved in presenting pupils for the 'Art in Heaven' competition.