



Enter the 2020 Spirited Arts & Poetry competition

This presentation invites to you make a piece of artwork or poetry on one of our five themes.

The National Association of Teachers of RE will give prizes to the winners.

See more details on our online gallery at www.natre.org.uk



A photograph of a desk setup. At the top, a silver tray holds several sharpened colored pencils in various colors like blue, green, yellow, and red. To the left, there are small white flowers. In the foreground, a hand is holding a dark pencil over a white sheet of paper. The paper has a title and a list of bullet points.

What is Spirited Arts & Poetry?

- Spirited Arts is an annual competition run since 2004 for RE pupils. We are delighted to once again welcome Poetry entries for 2020. The competition gives you a chance to be creative and imaginative in RE. It is all about spiritual ideas and your skills.
- There is a wonderful online art gallery & poetry collection. Last year over 50,000 pieces were created, and some of the best are on show there.
- If you enter this year, perhaps your art or poem will be in the gallery next time! Have a look and choose some favourites of your own.
- Pupils and their teachers are warmly invited to join in! We welcome entries from January of each year and the closing date is 31 July 2020. Click [here](#) to see full entry information.

Five themes to choose from

Spirited Arts & Poetry has five themes for 2020. Your teacher will choose a theme with you for you to enter. Have a look at some work from similar themes now.

The themes are:

- God's good earth?
- Inspiring!
- Holy Words!
- Where is God?
- Picturing Faith (New! Photo section)

Choose the one you want. After this slide you'll see lots more information and some great examples.

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.

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!



Charles, age 8 from **St James Junior School C of E**, made his artwork with the help of his classmates. 'The Bottletop Turtle'.

"I do not believe in any religion or any God...After oceans arose and the first life forms appeared like fish and the Turtle I (with the help of my class) have created. The humans evolved from the life forms in the ocean and started inventing materials such as plastic. These plastics are destroying sea life and we have showed that in our artwork, that the turtle is covered and made from plastic. All the creatures are slowly dying, and they have the same value as humans. I believe if there was a God, would he really let this happen."



'Planet Earth'

Alex age 11 from
Widcombe CofE
Junior school said:

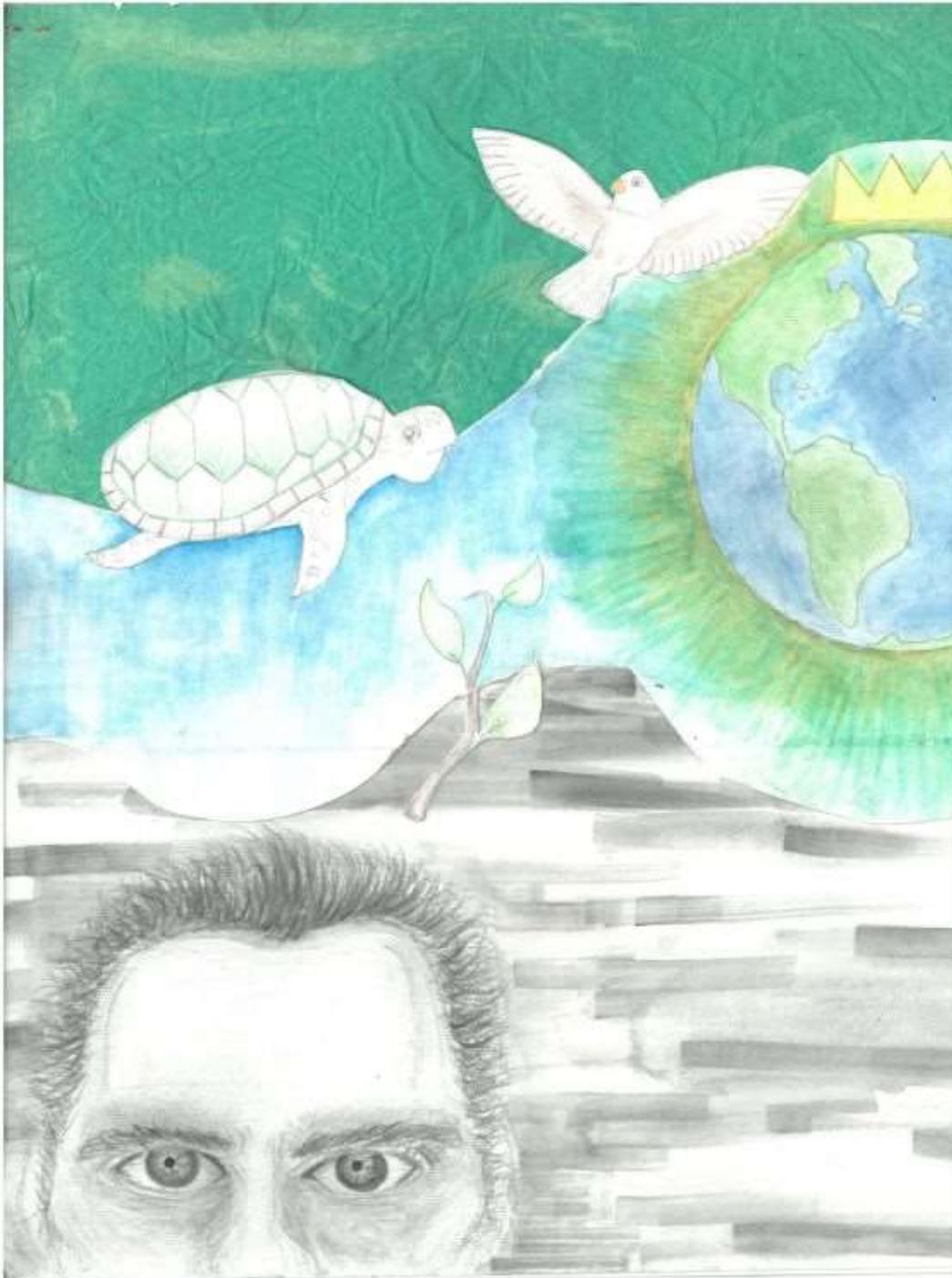
A lot of people think of God as a special being that watches over us and aids us. I do not believe in God, but I think nature is a miracle. Our world is one of such diversity that we should love it with the same love we give God. In my opinion is as important as God. Earth is my special place.



Isabelle, Charlotte and Astrid (all age 12) entered a group piece of artwork titled 'Mother Earth'.

The religions that inspired our work were Hinduism and Paganism. Hinduism inspired us because of the Hindu belief that Brahman, the Hindu God, is in everything and is. But the original idea of Mother Earth came from the Pagan religion, based on the worshipping of nature and that God is like a mother because she has given us life and continues to sustain us.

This work is spiritual because it may remind people that the earth is a gift to us, we belong it and should look after it. This, therefore, is very relevant at the moment because humans are at a stage in their existence in which they really need to start caring and putting the earth and others before their own desires.



**'God's Mystery' by Amneek,
age 14 from Stratford Girls
Grammar School.**

My painting is influenced by Job 12:7-10. The bottom half of the painting is in greyscale, to contrast with the bright colours above. This is to show that Job doesn't see the full wonders of the universe – only God can see because he is omniscient, omnipotent and omnibenevolent. The man at the bottom is meant to be Job, and the river leads him to the Earth. I drew a plant, a dove and a turtle in reference to the old scripture: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you" (Job 12:7-8).

**Why do the stars come out?
Kennedy, age 6**

**Why do the stars come out?
Why do we have names?
How far does the sea go?
How does the moon shine?**

**Why does a wasp sting?
Why is the grass green?
Why can't we fly?
Why are the clouds in the sky?**



**I wonder: Gaia
Poppy, age 13**

**I wonder what it was like at the start,
When Gaia was a child
She cared for us, gave us life
We saw no poverty, no pollution, no strife.**

...

**I wonder what it I like now,
Backstage in the theatre.
Is Gaia on a torture rack,
As we search for coal, roughly breaking her back?**

**I wonder can we stop
The inevitable from happening,
Can we give our life giver
The chance not to wither?**

**You wonder why the natural disasters
Are repeatedly occurring.
Gaia see the backstage shows
Yes my friends she knows!!**

Inspiring!

What inspired 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 - it doesn't have to be
your own faith, as inspiration tends to
spill over the edges of religions.

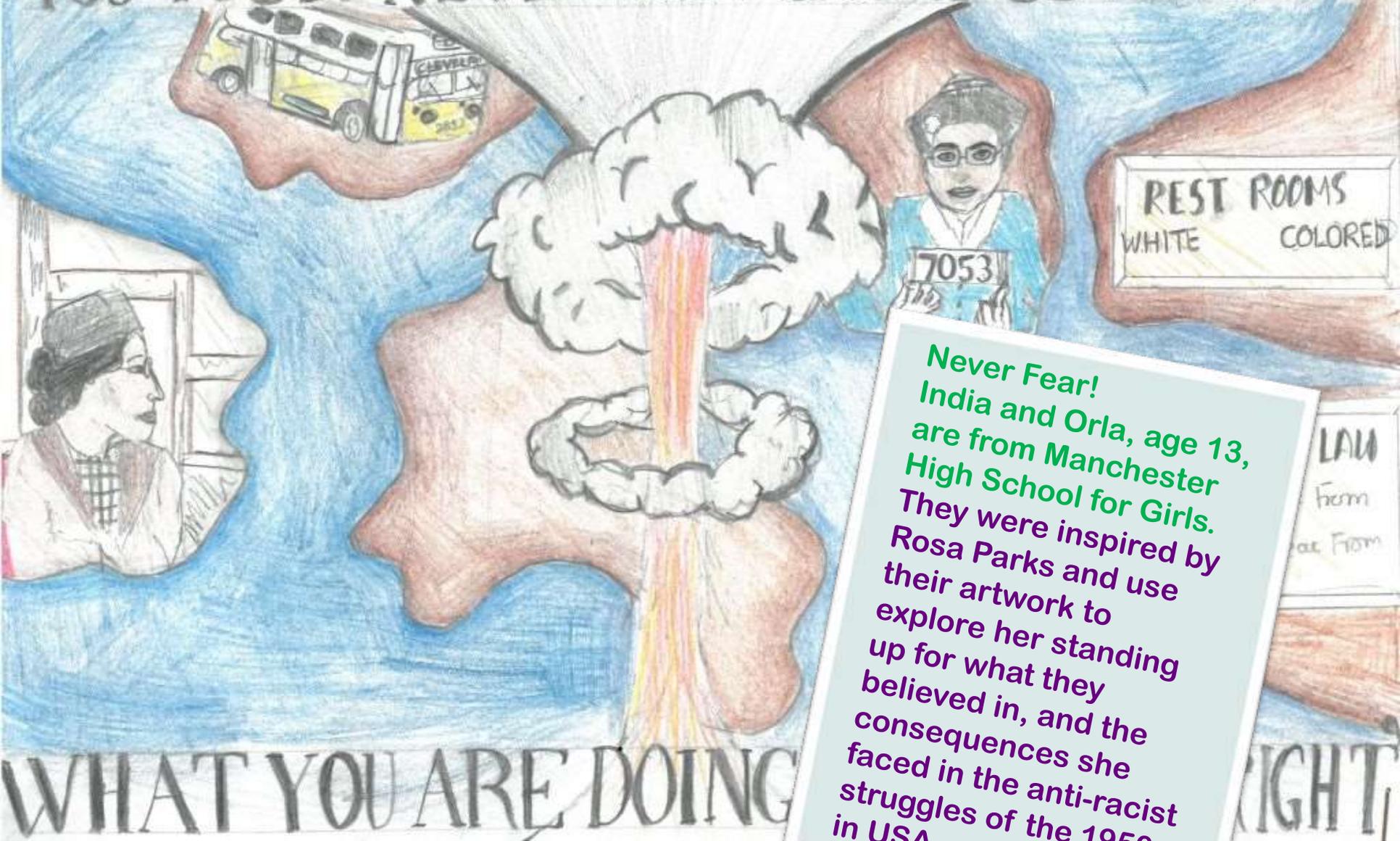
Explain through your art and text what
connects your inspiration to spiritual or
religious life.

Hari, age 9, goes to **St Leonard's Lower school**, and is inspired by **Malala Yousafzia**.

Who's afraid of a girl with a book?
"I am inspired by Malala Yousafzia because she fights for more education for all women. Her faith has given her strength to fight for peace and to not give up on education for women."



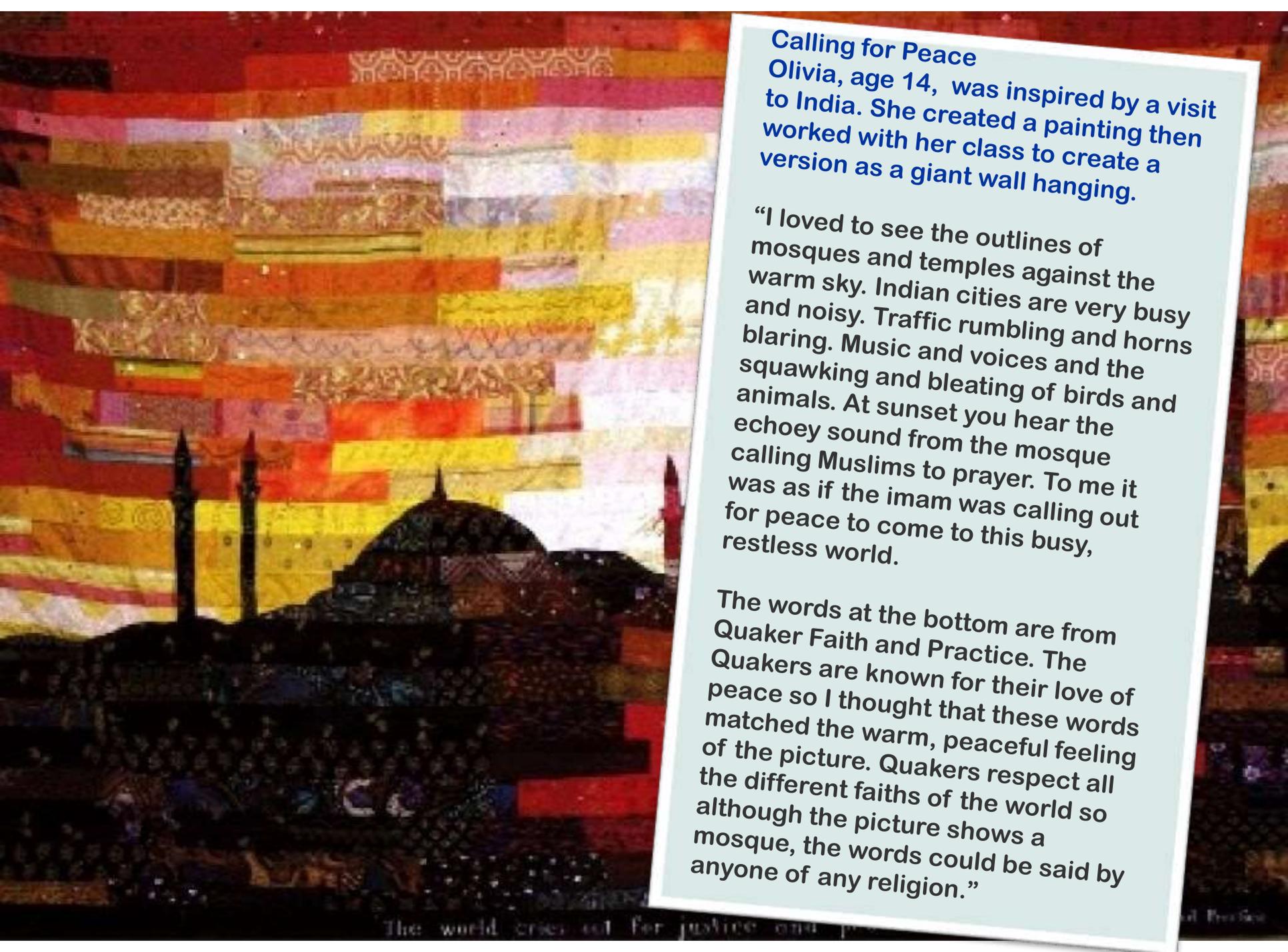
YOU MUST NEVER BE FEARFUL ABOUT



Never Fear!
India and Orla, age 13,
are from Manchester
High School for Girls.
They were inspired by
Rosa Parks and use
their artwork to
explore her standing
up for what they
believed in, and the
consequences she
faced in the anti-racist
struggles of the 1950s
in USA

LAW
From
at From

RIGHT



Calling for Peace
Olivia, age 14, was inspired by a visit to India. She created a painting then worked with her class to create a version as a giant wall hanging.

“I loved to see the outlines of mosques and temples against the warm sky. Indian cities are very busy and noisy. Traffic rumbling and horns blaring. Music and voices and the squawking and bleating of birds and animals. At sunset you hear the echoey sound from the mosque calling Muslims to prayer. To me it was as if the imam was calling out for peace to come to this busy, restless world.

The words at the bottom are from Quaker Faith and Practice. The Quakers are known for their love of peace so I thought that these words matched the warm, peaceful feeling of the picture. Quakers respect all the different faiths of the world so although the picture shows a mosque, the words could be said by anyone of any religion.”



Building the Spirit of the Town

18-year-old Lauren created a 6ft x 4ft mural representing the architecture of her hometown – Kendal, Lake District.

As Gaudi (Spanish architect) said ‘The straight line belongs to man, the curved like belongs to God.’ Nature is used widely in the Bible to blend nature with God Psalm 121 v 1-2 ‘I look up to the hills, but where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.’

The basic shape of my mural is that of the hills and river, with parts of the buildings inside the hills, as they are surrounding the town like the feeling that God surrounds us.

Inspiration (Mother Teresa)

Amy, age 13

I may have feet,
But I was unable to speak,
Until she came.
I looked into her gleaming eyes
And the shadows on her face.
She outstretched her loving arms
And held me in her healing embrace,
She blows kisses of love and despair
To me and all.
She is the light of my candle,
The voice to my choir,
And now I have gained a new desire
To have such valour and love
And to be talented like she.
She is like a rare stone
Whom people adore.
Time walks on,
People alive or gone,
She was always there,
That is what I wanted to share.
She was valuable,
She was a princess
She was Mother Teresa.



Some principles and key questions for the Spirited Arts methods

- A. Religions are, in their most dynamic phases, highly creative.
- B. Meaning-making is the essential mode of creativity in religion – not music, poetry, architecture, literature or invention (though these all matter too)
- C. Is every human creative? Arguably, yes!
- D. Do some pupils do their best work when creative horizons are opened up for them? Yes, many.
- E. Is creativity close to varied forms of spirituality?

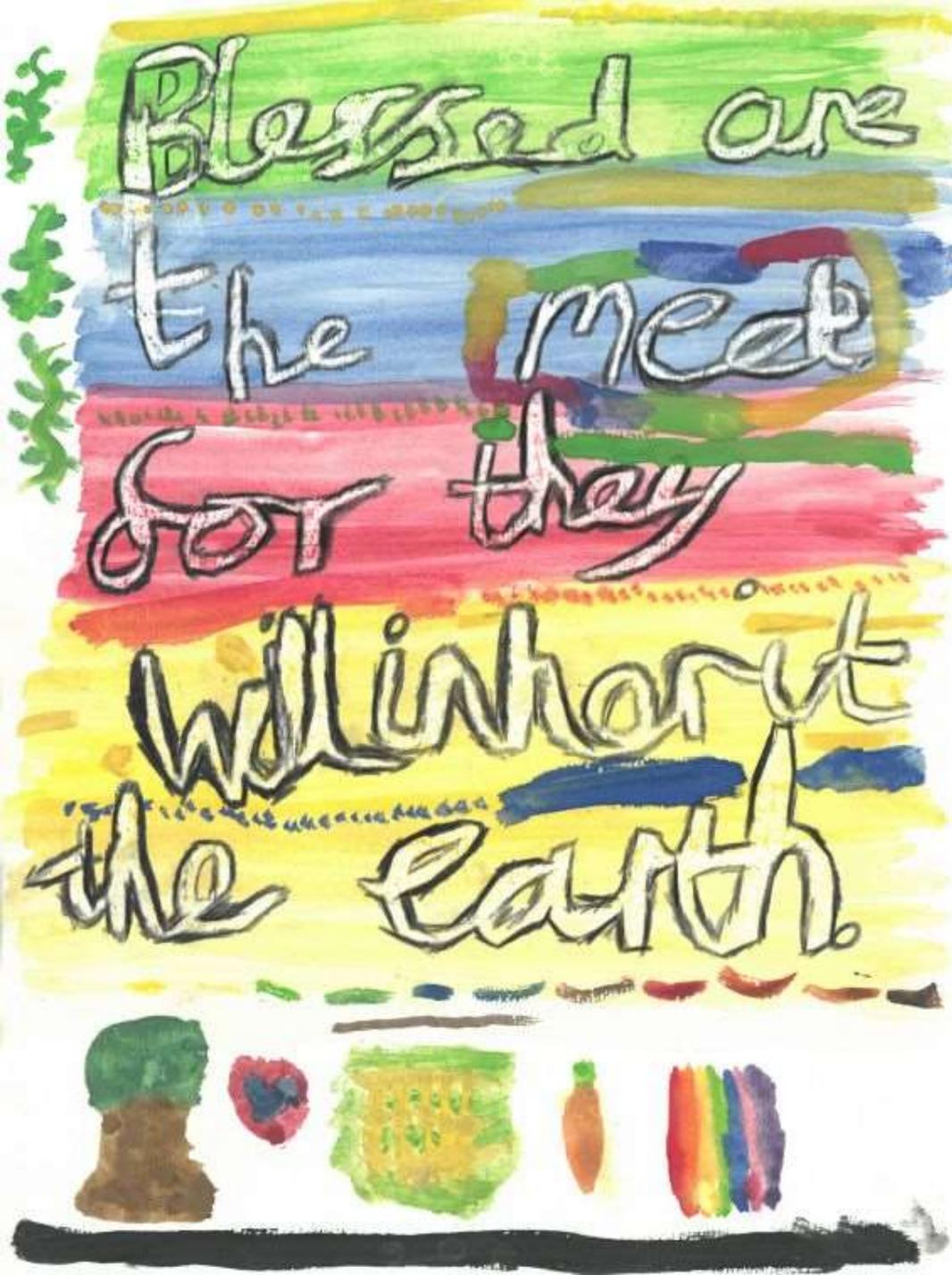
What for you are the principles that make creative RE a part of what we should do in RE?

Holy Words!

As usual this theme has strong connections to rich RE knowledge and better entries use this, rather than floating free from religion. Qur'an, Bible, Torah, Gita and Dhammapada should be referenced!

What words are holy for you? Select a saying or story you really love about peace, faith, unity, prayer or some other religious theme. Incorporate your holy words into your design or art and express the value and meaning of the words you have chosen in the images and art that you make.

This theme has a close connection to the study of holy books and teaching from 2 or more different scriptures can be used, so get reading from the Torah and the Gospel, the Qur'an and the Gita, the Dhammapada or the Guru Granth Sahib. And add some words from a non-religious source of wisdom too if you like.



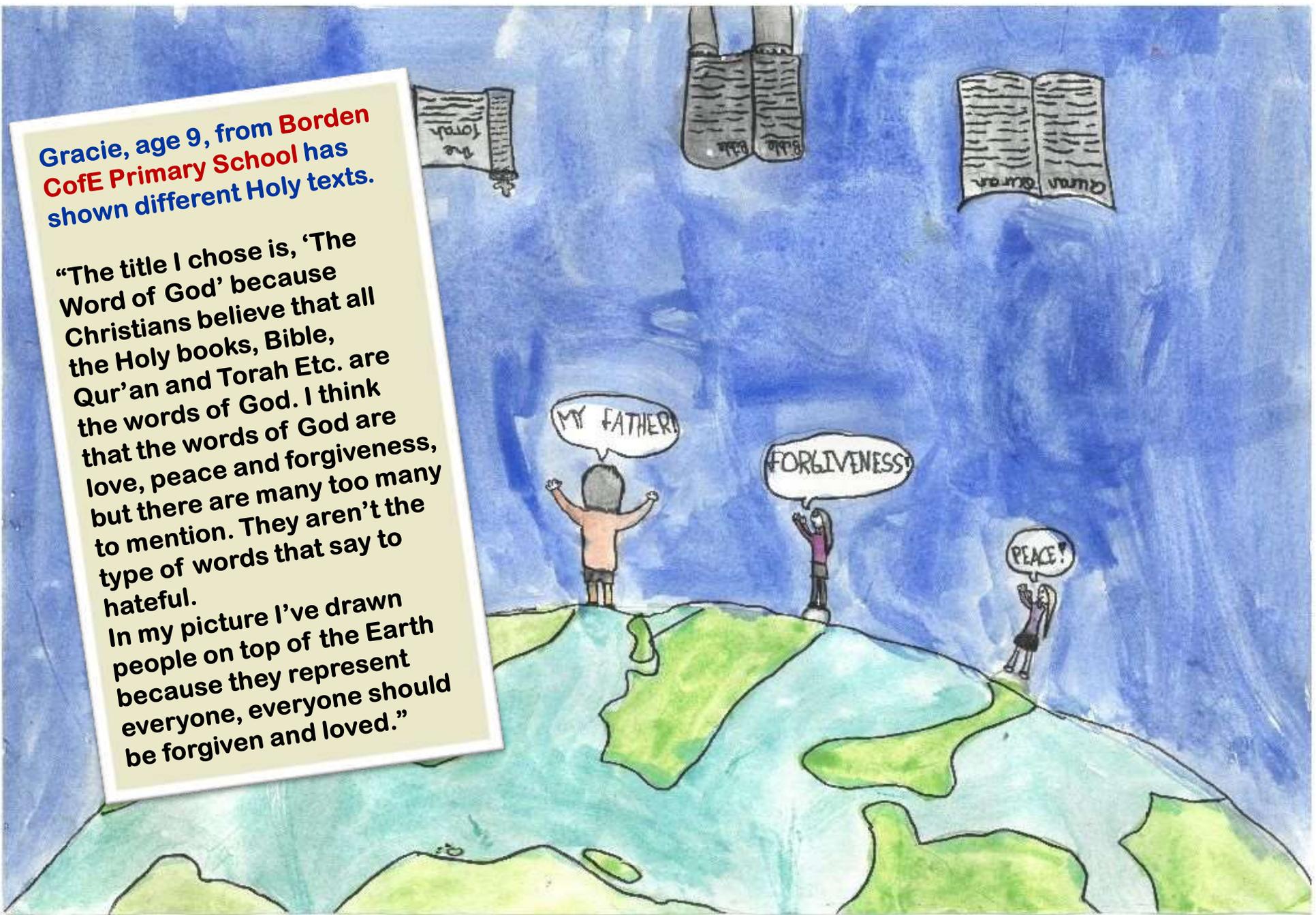
Daniel, age 9 from **St Leonards Lower School** shared his favourite beatitude.

“I chose this beatitude because I liked what it meant and it was a very uplifting message to all people, also because it sounds very 'flowing' to me. This beatitude means you don't think of yourself and if you were a movie star you should think you're just as important as a homeless person, and the homeless person should think the same.”

Gracie, age 9, from Borden CofE Primary School has shown different Holy texts.

“The title I chose is, ‘The Word of God’ because Christians believe that all the Holy books, Bible, Qur’an and Torah Etc. are the words of God. I think that the words of God are love, peace and forgiveness, but there are many too many to mention. They aren’t the type of words that say to hateful.

In my picture I’ve drawn people on top of the Earth because they represent everyone, everyone should be forgiven and loved.”





Ammaarah, age 12, from **Witton Park Academy** shared a personal reflection:
My Mum's Vision

“My art work has been inspired by my mother as unfortunately, she is blind. She has been blind for about nine years. She lost her eyesight when I was very young so she has never really seen what I look like. She always says that I am beautiful, and she sees visions of me. She says she is unlucky to lose her eyesight, but she is lucky to see visions. She says that it is God's will to take away her eyesight, and she is not angry with him, as she knows that God will give her something better in the afterlife. My family's religion is Islam, so we believe there is life after death, and my mother is confident that God has taken her eyesight away for a reason.”



Garish, age 14, from **Colton Hills Community School** titled his artwork 'Live like a lion.'

My artwork is based upon the quote "it is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a slave". On my artwork, there is a drawing of Malala, on the left hand side and there is a gun on the right hand side. In the middle I have placed the quote. Malala was named after Malala of Maiwand who led the Afghans into battle with this cry.

The message I tried to portray is that everyone has an option ~ they can live like a lion or a slave. I hope people will notice that you have the power to change your own life. I feel that Malala has empowered many people to change their lives today.



The wonders of the mind Charlotte, age 10

An illusion of life,
Like a dark tunnel with a light at the end,
Remarks softly,
“Hallowed be thy name.”

Frozen breath,
Like a fast flowing river in spring,
Disappears swiftly into the breeze,
Whispering,
“Hallowed be thy name.”

...

The mystery of Heaven
Like a board game of skies and sea,
Mutters,
“Hallowed be thy name.”

The power of God,
Like a gigantic force of love and hope
Says aloud,
“Hallowed be thy name”

[repeat final verse]

Where is God?

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? Looking for God, searching for him or her, matters: but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a 'goddetector? Is God on Instagram or WhatsApp? Can God be found by prayer or by looking among the world's suffering people?

This popular Spirited Arts & Poetry theme produces great work where pupils use ideas from religions clearly: The Jewish Psalms 42 and 43 are where it starts.



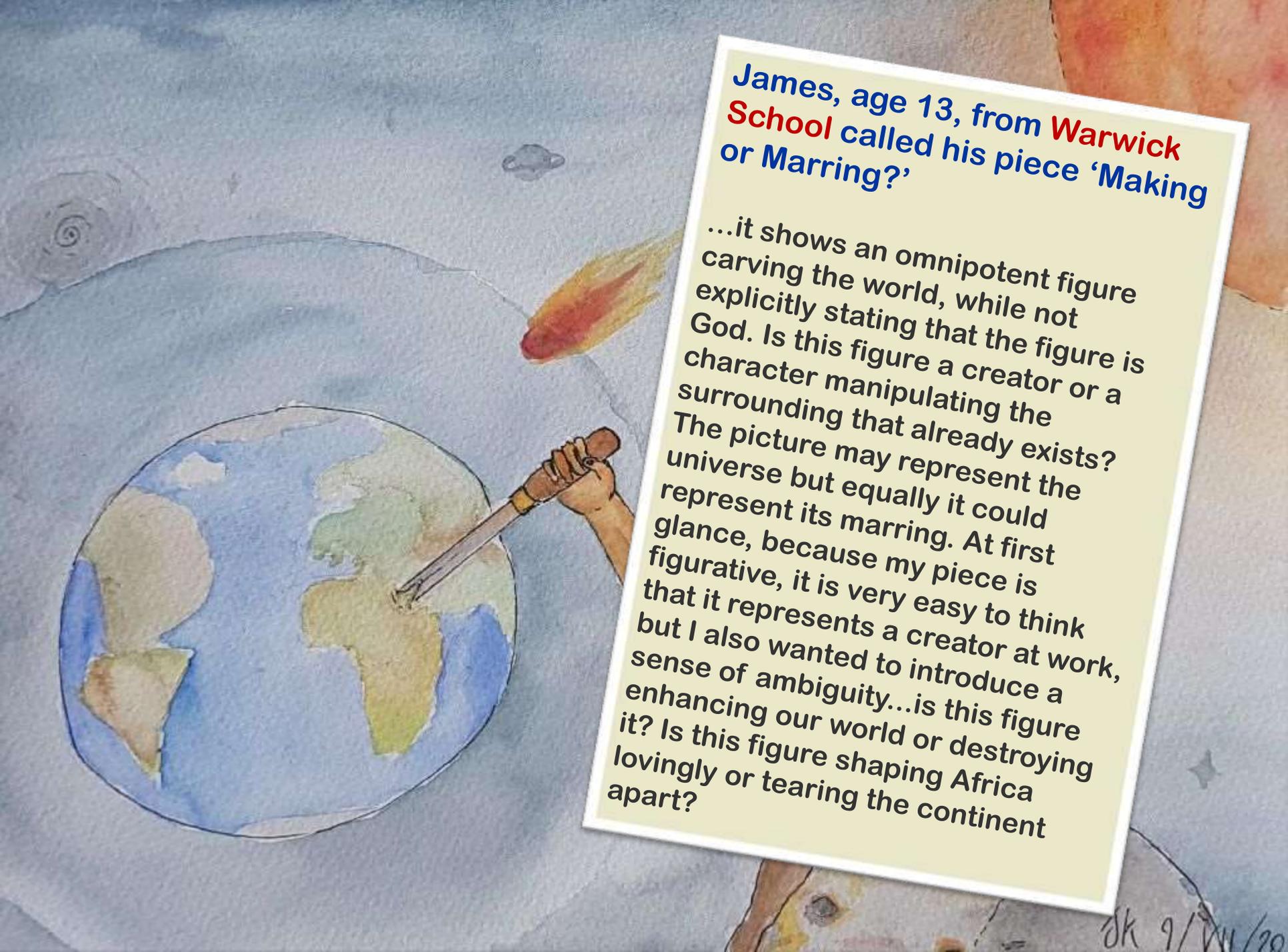
Hope, Alice and Marley (all age 5) from **Benedict Biscop CE Academy** worked together to answer the question, 'Where is God?'

God is on Heaven. He is everywhere. Heaven is God. Heaven is in the sky. God isn't a man or a woman, he is everything and everywhere. I wish I could see God and say thank you for making the world. Heaven looks like the sky, so we need blue colours. We need white too, for the clouds. And Gold for the Angels. We need beautiful flowers in it too remember. Heaven is full of all different flowers.



**Deen, age 7, from
Balderstone St Leonard
CofE Primary School says:**

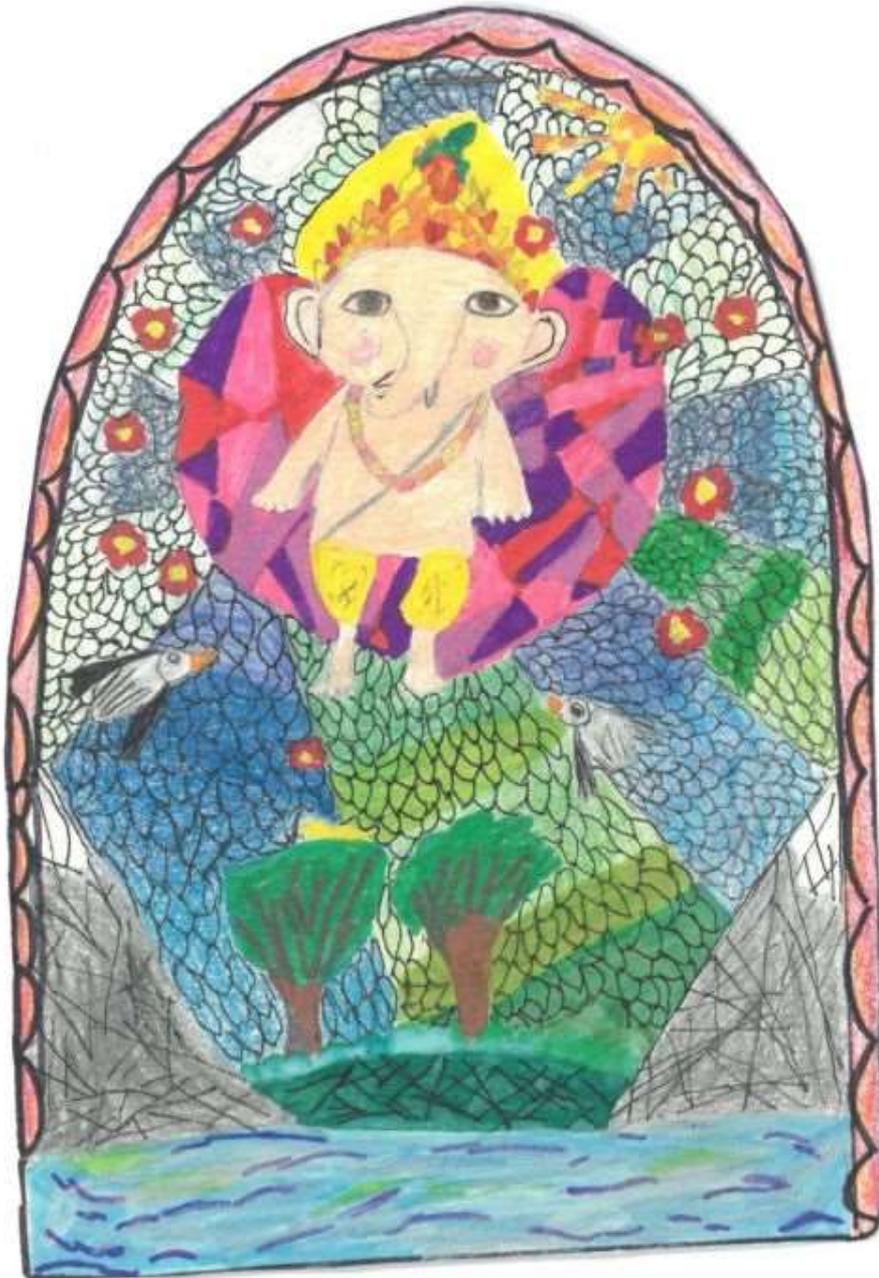
Where is God when all these wars are happening? At first it is difficult to see. But if you look again you can see people helping, people being brave, and young children still playing. That is where I think God is!



James, age 13, from **Warwick School** called his piece 'Making or Marring?'

...it shows an omnipotent figure carving the world, while not explicitly stating that the figure is God. Is this figure a creator or a character manipulating the surrounding that already exists? The picture may represent the universe but equally it could represent its marring. At first glance, because my piece is figurative, it is very easy to think that it represents a creator at work, but I also wanted to introduce a sense of ambiguity...is this figure enhancing our world or destroying it? Is this figure shaping Africa lovingly or tearing the continent apart?

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10-year-old Niyati from Church Hill CofE Junior School says:

I feel that God is everywhere that's why I have drawn rivers, mountains, greens, the moon and sun and the most important part is he is in my heart and he supports everyone in the world. The colours represent calm and peace around God and that he makes peace in the world.

GOD IS A GREAT HEALER



Isobelle, age 17, from **Newman Special School** is one of our SEN winners. She shared a moving piece:

God is up in the sky waiting for my arrival. So he can sprinkle down a healing potion to make me see and walk again and my parents standing beside me crying with tears of joy I say 'I can see and walk again, thank you God'.

Hope in the darkness

Stuart, age 11

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 angels 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 what 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.



Picturing Faith

**(Photo
section!)**

This is an innovation for our Spirited Arts competition. Pupils are invited to select up to 4 photographs from a visit to a place of worship (or another trip connected to RE) - preferably those taken by themselves, and give a brief commentary on the pictures to say what was great and what they learned from their visits. Comments about the emotions and the purpose of the place, not just 'labels and captions' are best. Pupils may like to provide their commentary in the form of a poem.

We suggest they are sent in a PPT presentation (or similar). If you have another way of responding to the theme 'Picturing Faith' then that is fine, please do send it in!

Different approaches to the competition. Success in many forms

Over the years, teachers have developed many ways of running Spirited arts. All these and others are welcome.

- A. A Spirited Arts Week for the whole school
- B. A unit of work over 6-8 lessons in RE for a year group
- C. A homework club competition
- D. A collaboration with the art department
- E. A launch in assembly with follow up lessons (you could use this PowerPoint to demo)
- F. The support of an outside body from a faith community
- G. Group project work from teams of students
- H. Linking with local artists
- I. Getting older pupils to run the show for younger ones

What can you do to make sure that you give your pupils the very best opportunity to show off their talents and insights?



And what about you?

- You have seen a lot of examples of the brilliant entries to the Spirited Arts & Poetry competition.
- Now think over your own ideas, beliefs and skills. Use your knowledge of religions and beliefs.
- Plan to make a super entry of your own, to send in before the end of the Summer Term. The closing date is 31 July.
- Write about how good it is! You can use the prompts we suggest to write about your art. Up to 250 words maximum.
- Don't forget you can see hundreds of interesting entries and other winners on the online gallery. Click [here](#).

Good luck!

SPIRITED ARTS

A COMPETITION FOR CREATIVE RE FOR EVERY PUPIL

Lat Blaylock, editor of RE Today, suggests ways for RE teachers to engage RE learners through their own creativity for their own self expression.

www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2020/

ENTER NOW!