

**How can I express my
own vision for justice
and equality?
'More unites us than
divides us.'**

Anti-racist religious education

www.anti-racist-re.org.uk

www.natre.org.uk/anti-racist-re



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP AND METHODIST SCHOOLS



RE Today
Services



Using artistic skills to express messages of justice and equality: the Spirited Arts competition from NATRE

In RE pupils learn about diversity all the time.

In anti-racist RE, negative or racist attitudes or behaviour are confronted and challenged so that prejudice can be reduced and equality and justice issues can be highlighted.

In this lesson your pupils will have a chance to explore some ideas about racism and prejudice. We are pleased to be partners with the Jo Cox Foundation in this work.

<https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/>

Start your pupils work on the next slide.



Using artistic skills to express messages of justice and equality: the Spirited Arts competition from NATRE

In this lesson you will have a chance to explore some ideas about racism and prejudice expressed through the art of some other pupils in RE.

- Questions considered include some that are about your own attitudes:
- Questions of justice: What can be done to reduce prejudice in our society?
- Questions about religion: how can religions, which claim to promote love and peace, do more for equality?
- Questions about your own attitudes: how would you express your vision of what unites us and holds us together as one human race, even though we are all different?





“We have far more in
common than that which
divides us”

JO COX MP

Use Jo Cox’s quotation to inspire your artwork

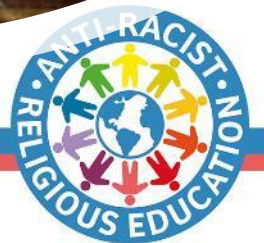


THE **JO COX**
FOUNDATION



Spirited Arts: Anti-racist RE for 7-11s

- This presentation invites you to you make a piece of artwork to show how and why religions and beliefs can reject racism.
- 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





What is Spirited Arts?

- Spirited Arts is an annual competition run since 2004 for RE pupils. The competition gives you a chance to be creative and imaginative in RE. It is all about spiritual ideas and your skills. This is a showcase presentation of some examples of Spirited Arts against racism.
- There is a wonderful online art gallery & poetry collection. Last year over 30,000 pieces were created, and some of the best are on show there.
- If you enter this year, perhaps your art will be in the gallery next time! Have a look at these examples 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. Visit www.natre.org.uk for full entry information.





Beautiful

Grace (age 11)

“Beautiful” is a picture that represents beauty in every person, no matter the skin type or looks. It is inspired by the diversity of Leicester (where I live) and my strong belief in equality and the horribleness of racism. I hope it inspires people to fight racism and stop judging people by their appearance.”

Why is it so common to judge others by appearances? Do we all do this? Should we stop?



Pouring harmony and love

Keala (age 12)

"In my picture you can see a teapot which has a Union Jack on the side, some different tea bags with different flags on and finally a teacup with rainbow tea filling it up. The teapot represents Britain, the teabags represent the different countries included in Britain and the tea that is coming out of the spout is multi-coloured because it shows 7 values that we could potentially get into Britain. What I like best about my work is the originality of the ideas and how they all come together."



Keala's values include harmony, love and understanding. What values do you hold that can make Britain less racist?





Where is God?

Deen (age 7)

"Where is God when all these wars, and hating 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!"

Deen believes that God is with us when we help each other. What do you think can help our community to be less hateful?





The Roots to a Rainbow Nation

Joel and Athena (age 13)

Our art work explores unity, equality, justice and non-discrimination in Britain. We thought about things like feminism, gender and sexuality. The tree in the centre symbolises Britain. The roots of the country – unity, equality, love, justice – hold it together. The tree trunk splits into branches, which have ‘Union Jack’ leaves. There may be a huge diversity but we are all equal and part of one multi-ethnic society – different branches linked back to the single tree trunk. We’ve realised, doing this, that Britain can be seen as a rainbow: the colours are different, but they are still a part of the same thing. We all belong to one human race, regardless of our differences. This idea explores sexual and racial equality. Every religion emphasises the importance of equality and diminishing injustice. Sikhs welcome anyone into the gurdwara for a free meal regardless of race or religion. The Bible teaches: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Joel and Athena
believe our shared
humanity is even
more important
than our
differences. Do you
agree? Why?



Could Britain be a rainbow nation?

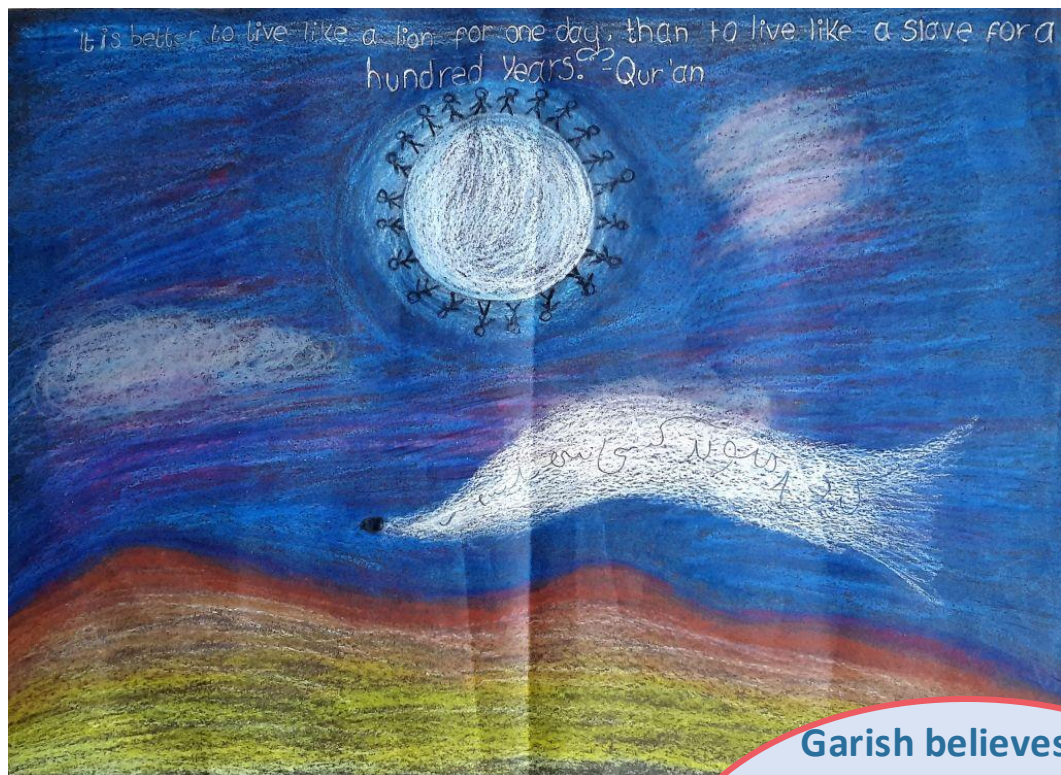
Isla (age 11)

"I started my work after the death of Jo Cox MP I used her quote: "Whilst we celebrate our diversity, we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than that which divides us".

I then made draws inside each draw is a quote from different religions that talk about equality and dignity and respect, with this quote there is a handmade jigsaw piece that can be fitted together to make a jigsaw of hands being united. On the map I have cut out individual faces to ask that we should embrace our difference and live in a world of respect. Around the edge of the model I have written the lyrics to Ebony and Ivory: "We all know that people are the same where ever you go There is good and bad in ev'ryone. We learn to live, when we learn to give." Collectively we need to respect and understand each others differences and show kindness to all. I found producing this model a very reflective time I was able to think about how I can encourage others to show kindness and respect to all, in the hope that we can live not judging by what others look like or where they are from but by their heart and the love that is shown towards all people."

Isla quotes Jo Cox: we have more in common than that which divides us.' How should we behave towards those who are different from us?





Garish believes we can change our lives. How important is it to have a positive attitude in our own hearts and minds towards equality?

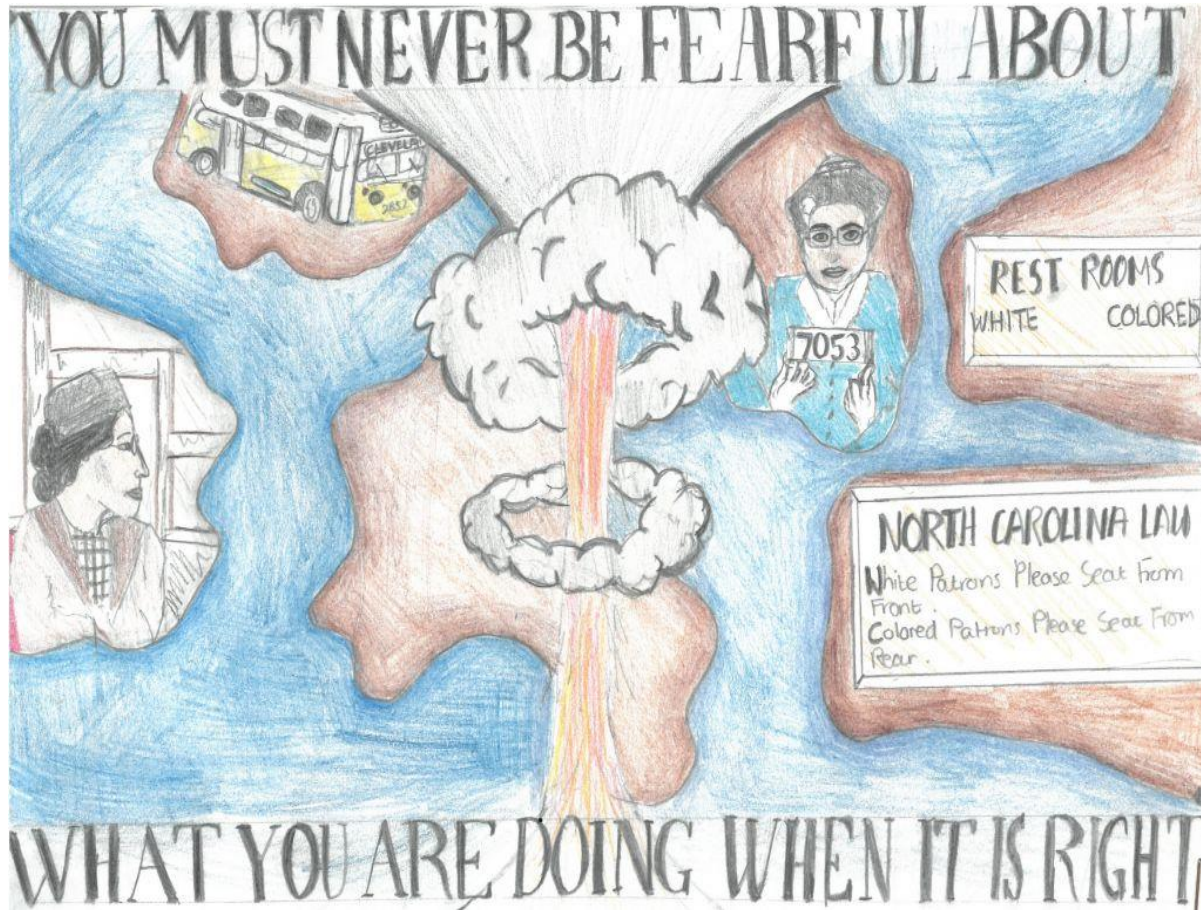
Live like a lion

Garish (age 14)

“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.”





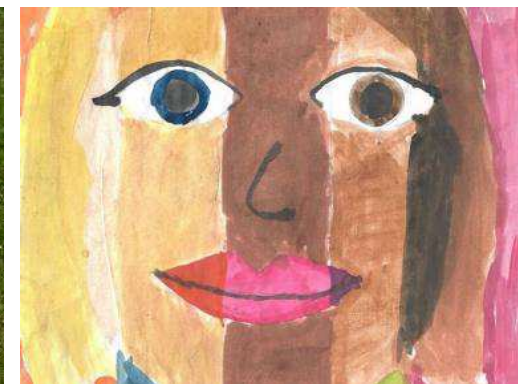
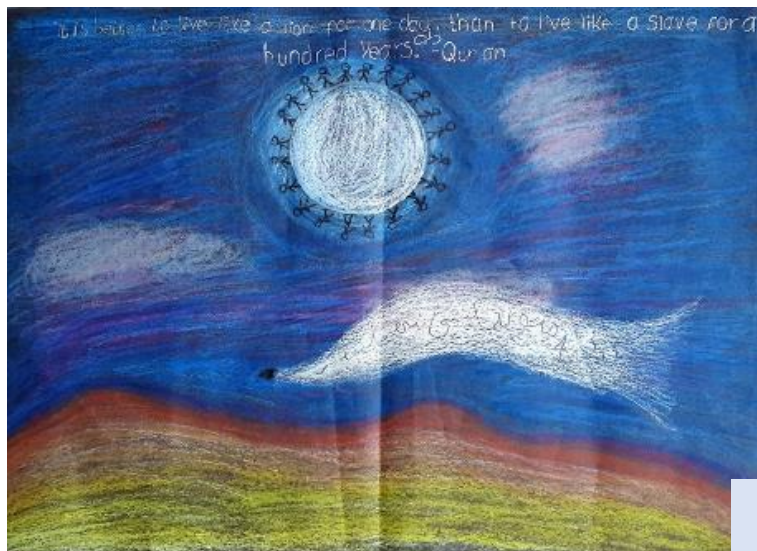
Rosa Parks

India and Orla (age 13)

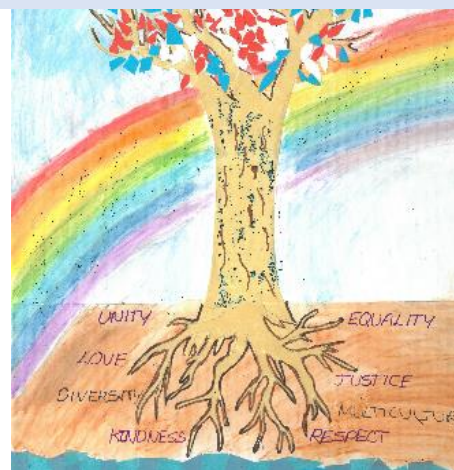
They were inspired by Rosa Parks and use their artwork to explore her standing up for what they believed in, and the consequences she faced.

India and Orla recognise Rosa Parks, as an anti-racist hero. She started the civil rights bus boycott in 1955 in the USA. Who do you think has done a lot to reduce racism?





Which of the seven pictures did you like best and why? Have a class vote. Then design your own!



And what about you?

- You have seen a lot of examples of the brilliant entries to the Spirited Arts competition.
- Now think over your own ideas, beliefs and skills.
- Theme: **“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.”** Consider some of the ways people with different religions or from different races still share one humanity.
- How can we learn to love each other, despite our different beliefs or races? How can we build justice for everyone?
- 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. Up to 250 words maximum.
- Don't forget you can see hundreds of interesting entries and other winners on the online gallery.
www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts
- **Good luck!**



Challenging writing

Pick 4 out of these 7 questions, writing a paragraph about each, maybe 4-600 words in total.

- What differences do you think it would make if our country and community took Jo Cox's message about our unity more seriously?
- Jo Cox was a Humanist, but she worked with and for people from different religions as well. How do you think people from different religions and worldviews can work better together in Britain?
- Which religious teachings do you think the world needs now, and why?
- Why is it that religious teachings can sound wonderful, but religious people's behaviour is not so good?
- Jo Cox stood against racism, and was murdered by a person who hated her for that. What do you think are the risks of standing against racism?
- 'Treat others as you would like to be treated' says the Golden Rule. Why do you think we don't all follow this as much as we should?
- 'When racism shows its ugly face, it is all too easy for good people to stay quiet. Then racism gets worse.' Do you agree? What can give people courage to stand for justice and against racism?
- Share your answers to these questions in groups of four around the class.



In this lesson...

In this lesson you have had a chance to explore some ideas about racism and prejudice and the art of some other pupils.

Questions considered include some that are about your own attitudes:

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What did you learn?

Are you age 7-9? Can you:

- Identify and talk about the main message of Jo Cox MP
- Consider and respond to the idea that being human gives us 'more in common' that what may divide us – nationality, religion, gender or anything else
- Make links between the ideas they have been learning and the art work they create, writing thoughtfully about human unity

Are you age 10-11? Can you:

- Describe the impact of Jo Cox's big idea, including a personal response
- Consider ideas about how we live with difference and respect humanity in its diversity, creating a relevant work of art
- Explain links between Jo Cox's quotation, teaching from religions and worldviews and their own artistic expression
- Express thoughtful views about how humans can 'disagree respectfully' and live together with all our differences



Partners

This project is a partnership between the Free Churches Group, the Methodist Schools, RE Today, NATRE and many teachers of RE and educators from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities who have become voluntarily involved.

Lat Blaylock, RE Today Adviser and Anti-Racist RE project co-ordinator, would like to thank all these partners for their contributions, work and inspiration.



We are pleased to partner with the Jo Cox Foundation for our Spirited Arts competition theme;
“We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us.”

