

R.E.S.P.E.C.T 2017

Final Report

“Wonderful work, exhibited in a very inspiring way”.

“Fabulous exhibition – Thank you to all , the hard work of teachers and students. It’s important that the ‘ARTS’ are supported”

“Some fantastic use of colour, pattern and line! Some great concept thinking considering the theme of journeys”.

“Such amazing pathways, each one so unusual. No two life pathways are ever the same!!! Thank You”.

“Knock out exhibition! Meaningful and a solidly structured project for schools”.

“Awesome!”



These were just a few of the many positive comments written in our Comment Book during the three week Exhibition (8 – 26 June). Attracting 3449 visitors (of which an estimated 400 were children/students), the banners brought the Cathedral alive with thoughtful pathways of colour around the Nave scaffolding. Several key services were also held at the Cathedral (involving 1,987 congregation members) during the Exhibition, led by the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, which included the Licensing of Diocesan Readers and the Ordination of Deacons and Priests, so the exhibition made a fitting backdrop to promises being made to follow in the path of Jesus Christ.

The aim of this project was to consider journeys we make in life, both physically and virtually as well as mindfully. Reference was made to the importance and significance of pilgrimage, questions asked about challenges we have in life as well as moments of inspiration and times of joy.

Children and students were asked to work collaboratively, creating their paper pathways which interweave and cross to represent their journey in life. Printing and embellishment techniques were then used to bring the pathways ‘to life’ and create the banners. Artists such as Jasper Johns, Kenneth Martin, John McLean, Bridget Riley, Sean Scully, Frank Stella and Victor Vasarely were studied and much of their work inspired the exhibition. Some schools also used poetry as a stimulus for their work.

Some key pointers for reflection and interpretation were positioned amongst the exhibits (e.g. ‘*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step*’ Laozi) to accompany the catalogue, in which were listed all exhibits as well as some thoughtful comments from the children and students who contributed (e.g. ‘*The surface represented Life’s journey very well as it was all over the place and wasn’t just one simple line*’.)



The project began with the Art Advisors Team (Tim Wilson, Neil Hanger, Di Kennedy and Jill Woodward) leading a workshop for teachers at Wingfield Barns in March 2017 to share ideas and provide practical instructions for the creation of the art exhibits. Workshop notes were then produced and disseminated to all schools taking part:



Primary (5):

Barrow CEVA Primary
 Bildeston C Primary
 Thurlow CEVC Primary
 Tollgate C Primary, BSE
 Whatfield CEVC Primary

Middle (1):

Westley Middle, BSE

Upper (2):

Alde Valley Academy, Leiston
 Catholic High, BSE

Independent (1):

South Lee School, BSE St. Benedict's

The teachers then worked with their children/students in their schools and were given delivery days and times for their exhibits during the week before the exhibition was set up on Thursday 8 June and a Preview for Headteachers, teachers and school governors was held. This was followed by days of visits for schools and members of the public. However, due to limited space, only one curriculum day was planned this year - around the theme of pilgrimage. It was linked to the story of Pilgrim's Progress and both Thurlow and Tollgate Primary schools sent children to learn how to make giant puppets of characters from the story.



RESPECT 2017 has been claimed as a great success but none of it would have been possible without the help and support of the Lighting, Vergers and Discovery Centre teams - to whom we are very grateful.

The whole experience has not only been a profound and exciting one for the children, it has enabled us all to consider and reflect on our own journey in life.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

Helen Woodroffe
 Children's Education Officer
 The Discovery Centre

