

Ideas for spiritual reflection at reflective areas and at home: 'Day 3'

On these pages are ideas for spiritual reflection at reflective areas within classrooms (or other areas of the school site) as well as at home. The ideas within the former draw explicitly upon the research of David Csinos (see pages 6-7 of the Heart for the Earth overview); feel free to adapt or use them as a springboard to think of other ideas for spiritual reflection that the school community will value. The latter provides some newsletter text and ideas you may wish to share with parents/carers to stimulate reflection and practical demonstrations of having a 'Heart for the Earth' at home. These activities will help pupils – and their families – to further reflect upon loving and walking lightly upon the planet we share. In so doing, pupils can become climate champions in a range of contexts^[1]:



[1] O'Dwyer, A. 'Exploring climate change education outside the classroom', In Dolan, A.M. *Teaching Climate Change in Primary Schools: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (London: Routledge, 2022), p.141

Ideas for spiritual reflection at reflective areas: 'Day 3'



Word

'We are members, not masters, of this planet we share'.
What might this mean for how we should think and live?



Emotion

Go outdoors and look at nature around you in different places. What can you see? Hear? Feel?

Think of one thing about nature that makes you go...

Wow! (that's awesome!)

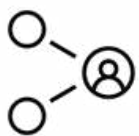
How? (I wonder why...?)

Ow! (I wish that X would be better...)



Symbol

Take a moment to silently reflect on this artwork. What does it make you think about? How does it make you feel?



Action

How will you show a heart for the earth through caring for plants, wildlife and habitats this week?

God



Heart for the Earth at Home:

newsletter text and practical ideas: Day 3

In our collective worship and across school life, we are exploring what it means to have a 'Heart for the Earth'. We have been thinking about why it is important to look after the planet we share, with a particular focus on ecosystems (for instance, an oak tree provides food and shelter for over 2,300 organisms!). If you'd like to, below are some ideas to further encourage a heart for the Earth on this theme.

Spend time outside this with your children this Summer. The stronger our connection to the earth, the more likely we are to care for it. **Why not:**



- Look attentively at ecosystems in your local area. What plants and wildlife do you notice? How do they depend on one another?
- Learn the names and features of some plants around you
- Encourage flourishing ecosystems. Make a bird feeder from coffee jars, plant wildflowers to support pollinators such as bees, create an insect hotel using pallets and spare pieces of carpet are some ideas. Are there any other ideas you could explore?
- As plants thrive in light and unpolluted soil, how clean is the area around you? Could you help make it cleaner for plants and wildlife to flourish?



In collective worship, we will consider the following questions. Why not discuss these at home?



- 'It is better to see humans as members of the planet, not masters'. What do you think of this quote? Agree? Disagree? Bit of both? Why?
- How could we show a heart for the earth through our ecological awareness? How could we help plants and wildlife flourish? Why should we care?

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In our collective worships, we have been thinking about how we can show a 'heart for the earth' through our ecological awareness. Hear your child's ideas about looking after ecosystems, plants and wildlife.

