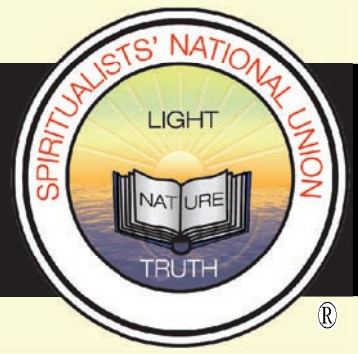


This is Spiritualism



**Energy cannot
be created or
destroyed
only changed.**

Universal Law

**"It is not more surprising
to be born twice than
once, everything in nature
is resurrection"**

Voltaire

**"I am not afraid of
death because I don't
believe in it. It's just
getting out of one car
and into another"**

John Lennon

**The grave is but a
covered bridge
leading from light
to light through a
brief darkness**

Longfellow

**"Seeing death as the
end of life is like seeing
the horizon as the end
of the ocean"**

David Searls

**"Death is but
a stepping stone, a
door through which
you enter into the
larger freedom of the
realms of the Spirit"**

Silver Birch

**"Astronomy compels
the soul to look
upwards and leads
us from this world to
another"**

Plato

**"The day
which we
fear as our
last is but the
birthday
of eternity"**

Seneca

**An exploration and explanation of the aims and endeavours
of the modern Spiritualist movement**

What is Spiritualism?

Spiritualism is a recognised religion. The Spiritualists' National Union (SNU) holds charitable status in the UK and as such receives recognition equal to that of other registered religious charities. It has been legally recognised by the Home Office since 1939 as an appointing body for Spiritualist Ministers, whose rights and responsibilities are equal to those of Ministers of other religions.

There are 340 societies and churches that form part of the SNU. The primary object of the SNU is to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of the religion and religious philosophy of Spiritualism on the basis of the Seven Principles. The Principles aim to provide a moral and ethical framework upon which people can base their lives:

The Seven Principles of Spiritualism:

1. The Fatherhood of God
2. The Brotherhood of Man
3. The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels
4. The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul
5. Personal Responsibility
6. Compensation and Retribution Hereafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth
7. Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul

The religion of Spiritualism is open to all, rejecting none.

Spiritualist churches allow people to come together to enjoy Spiritualist activities. Most of these activities have a religious foundation such as prayer, meditation, Spiritualist philosophy, hymns, songs and music. The church religious service will include reverence to a deity, recognised and acknowledged in Spiritualism as God, the Eternal Being and Source of all that exists. This service is the most important of all church activities and is often the first point of contact between the church and those members of the public who wish to know more about Spiritualism.

What makes Spiritualism unique?

Modern science has brought man to understand that matter cannot be destroyed, it can only change form. Spiritualists believe that life-forms, having been created by God, cannot be extinguished by death. The life energy manifested through the physical form is only changed, not terminated, at the end of physical existence. Because of this Spiritualists believe that communication from the spirit world to the physical world is possible.

Acceptance of this communication lies at the heart of Spiritualist philosophy. Spiritualists believe that knowledge can be given through philosophical teachings received from the spirit world. Such teachings can bring great understanding to mankind, offering guidance and inspiration both to the individual and to the world at large. Communication is viewed by Spiritualists as a natural and normal activity, as natural as a friend on the other side of the world sending an e-card on a birthday! A major role is played by mediums within Spiritualism, as they are able to establish links of communication between those who have passed to the spirit world and those who live in the material world. Such spirit communication provides evidence for Spiritualists of survival of death.

Spiritualism is also unique, as it is the only religious movement which has no charismatic personality at its centre. However, there have been many well-known Spiritualists, including Robert Owen, the founder of the Co-Operative, Arthur Conan Doyle, writer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Lord Dowding, former Head of the British Royal Air Force Fighter Command during the Second World War.

The following pages provide a range of teaching activities which will help give KS3 pupils a greater insight into Spiritualism, an opportunity to reflect on its underlying principles and the chance to explore its relevance to society today.

The Hydesville Rappings

Overview: Although Spiritualism is as old as mankind, modern Spiritualism stems from events in America on March 31st 1848, now known as HYDESVILLE DAY. This activity will give pupils the opportunity to investigate these mysterious events.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Modern Spiritualism developed during the second half of the nineteenth century following a series of paranormal events that occurred in Hydesville, New York State, USA in the 1840s.

On 11th December 1847 John and Margaret Fox and their two daughters, Margaretta, aged fourteen, and Catherine, aged twelve, went to live in an old house in Hydesville, USA. On the evening of 29th March 1848 the family was disturbed by a series of raps and other noises in the front bedroom of the house. These sounds continued until around midnight, when the family finally went to sleep. The next evening the sounds resumed with a greater intensity, but on this occasion they were heard throughout the house and continued until dawn, leaving the family in a very distressed condition.

On the night of 31st March 1848 the raps happened again and reached such a pitch that the family could not sleep. The two young daughters clapped their hands. They were amazed when the clapping was answered by a like number of raps. They asked for their ages and this was given. Then they made soundless claps and these too were repeated. It was realised that whoever made the sounds could see as well as hear.

Their mother asked how many children she had and the answer included one who had died in infancy, which the other children did not know. Neighbours were invited in. One neighbour William Duesler developed a method of communication allowing a number of questions to be put to the spirit communicator about personal matters relating to the Fox family: these were answered accurately by the unseen presence. Further questions gained information that the communicator claimed to be the spirit of a young peddler who had been murdered in the house and buried in its cellar five years previously. Other neighbours of the Fox family were subsequently summoned to the house to witness the spirit phenomena and communication.

The spirit activity in the Hydesville house aroused great interest among people in the local area and, as the news spread further afield, people from other districts became interested in the phenomena. As a result of these events the Fox family and the others

came to believe that the paranormal activity that had taken place in the Fox house indicated that intelligent, conscious communication had been established with the spirit of the peddler. Many people heard the rappings. Thereafter a chain of events unfolded that eventually led to a body of people in America, and later also in Britain, who believed in and practised communication with the spirit world. In time these people came to be known as Spiritualists.

Suggested activities:

- Read the article about the Fox family.

Discuss/ answer the questions that follow:

1. What happened on the night of 31st March 1848?
2. Why do you think the Fox family were distressed?
3. What did the system of communication that developed prove for Spiritualists?
4. Imagine that you are a news reporter investigating the Hydesville Rappings and write article for your newspaper. You will need to include an overview of the key events that occurred and interview at least one of the main characters. The following guidance will help you to complete the task:

- **First paragraph**

In your first one or two sentences tell who, what, when, where and why. Try to hook the reader by beginning with a funny, clever or surprising statement. Go for variety: try beginning your article with a question or a provocative statement.

- **Second/Third/Fourth paragraphs**

Give the reader the details. Include one or two quotes from people you interviewed. Write in the third person (he, she, it, they). Be objective -- never state your opinion. Use quotes to express others' opinions!

- **Last paragraph**

Try ending with a quote or a catchy phrase.



The Seven Principles of Spiritualism

Overview: As Spiritualism began to take on a recognisable identity and became more widely established, a set of principles, now known as the Seven Principles of Spiritualism, was developed. This led to the evolution of a religious philosophy based upon these precepts. The Principles were not intended to be binding rules or the basis of a dogma, but to provide a moral and ethical framework upon which people could base their lives.

1 • The Fatherhood of God: Spiritualists believe that God created the universe and all that is. They believe God's spirit is present in everyone. We are all children of God and are part of one family.

2 • The Brotherhood of Man: Spiritualists believe all people are created by God and are equal and interconnected. They believe we need to develop tolerance and understanding of each other; we should help all people regardless of race, colour or creed.

3 • The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels: For Spiritualists communication with the spirit world is a normal activity. They believe that angels and spirit beings teach, guide and give messages of love and support. Spiritualists believe they can communicate directly with the spirit world either individually or through a medium.

4 • **The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul:**

Spiritualists believe life is a continuous process and when we move from this world to the next we move on to another form of existence. They believe that spirit communicators bring evidence of survival after physical death.

5 • **Personal Responsibility:** Spiritualists believe we are each responsible for our own actions. They believe God has given us enormous potential and we can use this potential to improve our own lives and the lives of others. No other person can put right our wrongdoings.

6 • **Compensation and Retribution Hereafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth:** Spiritualists believe that here and now we are creating our future existence in the spirit world; every word we say and every action we take will have consequences not only for our earthly life but also for our spiritual progress. They believe that there is no heaven or hell, only levels of spiritual progress; we reap what we sow.

7 • **Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul:** Spiritualists believe there will always be an opportunity to develop and move forward. They believe God is patient with us and gives us the chance to make good. Spiritual progression is open to all.

Suggested activities:

1. Complete the 'Seven Principles card sort' (see page 7).
Reflect on the meaning of each Principle and answer the questions that follow:
2. Which Principle do you think matters most? Why?
3. In your opinion is there anything missing that it would be helpful to include?
4. Which Principle would be the most difficult to live by? Why?
5. Create a poster showing one or more of the Seven Principles in action in the world today. You could use cuttings/pictures or articles from newspapers, information from the internet, or create your own unique drawing to express your ideas. An example of this could be Principle 2, the Brotherhood of Man. This could be illustrated with newspaper cuttings and headlines showing people working together/helping each other/resolving differences, etc.

The Seven Principles card sort.

Version A

1. The Fatherhood of God	a. For Spiritualists communication with the spirit world is a normal activity. They believe angels and spirit beings teach, guide and give messages of love and support. Spiritualists communicate either directly with the spirit world or through a medium.
2. The Brotherhood of Man	b. Spiritualists believe we are each responsible for our own actions. They believe that God has given us enormous potential and we can use this potential to improve our own lives and the lives of others. No other person can put right our wrongdoings.
3. The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels	c. Spiritualists believe that God created the universe and all that is; God's spirit is present in everyone. They believe we are all children of God and are part of one family.
4. The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul	d. Spiritualists believe there will always be an opportunity to develop and move forward. They believe that God is patient with us and gives us the chance to make good. Spiritual progression is open to all.
5. Personal Responsibility	e. Spiritualists believe all people are created by God and are equal and interconnected. They believe we need to develop tolerance and understanding of each other; we should help all people regardless of race, colour or creed.
6. Compensation and Retribution Hereafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth	f. Spiritualists believe life is a continuous process and when we move from this world to the next we move on to another form of existence. They believe spirit communicators bring evidence of survival after physical death.
7. Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul	g. Spiritualists believe that here and now we are creating our future existence in the spirit world; every word we say and every action we take will have consequences not only for our earthly life but also for our spiritual progress. They believe that there is no heaven or hell, only levels of spiritual progress; we reap what we sow.



The Seven Principles card sort.

Version B

1. The Fatherhood of God	a. For Spiritualists communication with the spirit world is a normal activity.
2. The Brotherhood of Man	b. Spiritualists believe we are each responsible for our own actions.
3. The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels	c. Spiritualists believe that God created the universe and all that is.
4. The Continuous Existence of the Human Soul	d. Spiritualists believe there will always be an opportunity to develop and move forward.
5. Personal Responsibility	e. Spiritualists believe all people are created by God and are equal and interconnected.
6. Compensation and Retribution Here Hearafter for all the Good and Evil Deeds done on Earth	f. Spiritualists believe life is a continuous process.
7. Eternal Progress Open to every Human Soul	g. Spiritualists believe that here and now we are creating our future existence in the spirit world.
h. They believe angels and spirit beings teach, guide and give messages of love and support.	i. Spiritualists believe that God has given us enormous potential and we can use this potential to improve our own lives and the lives of others.
j. Spiritualists believe they can communicate directly with the spirit world either individually or through a medium.	k. Spiritualists believe that God's spirit is present in everyone.
l. Spiritualists believe that no other person can put right our wrongdoings.	m. Spiritualists believe that when we move from this world to the next we move on to another form of existence.
n. Spiritualists believe that spiritual progression is open to all.	o. They believe we are all children of God and are part of one family.
p. Spiritualists believe we should help all people regardless of race, colour or creed.	q. Spiritualists believe spirit communicators bring evidence of survival after physical death.
r. Spiritualists believe that God is patient with us and gives us the chance to make good our mistakes.	s. Spiritualists believe we need to develop tolerance and understanding of each other.
t. Spiritualists believe that every word we say and every action we take will have consequences not only for our earthly life but also for our spiritual progress.	u. Spiritualists believe that there is no heaven or hell, only levels of spiritual progress; we reap what we sow.





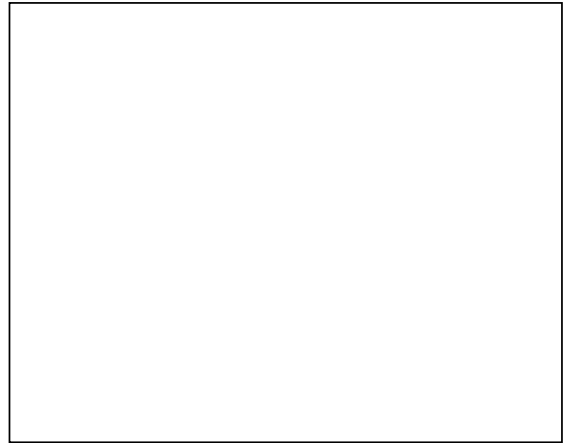
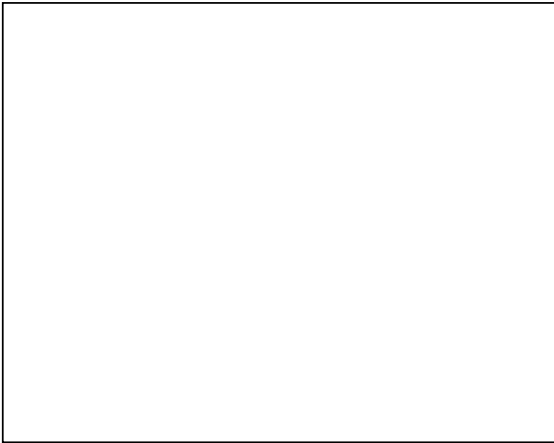
Spiritualist worship

Overview: Spiritualist churches allow people to come together to enjoy Spiritualist activities. As the main activity of the church, the religious service is open to the public and will include reverence to a deity, recognised and acknowledged in Spiritualism as God. The order of service would typically comprise prayer, a healing minute, the singing of hymns, an appropriate spiritual reading, an address on Spiritualist philosophy and a demonstration of mediumship.

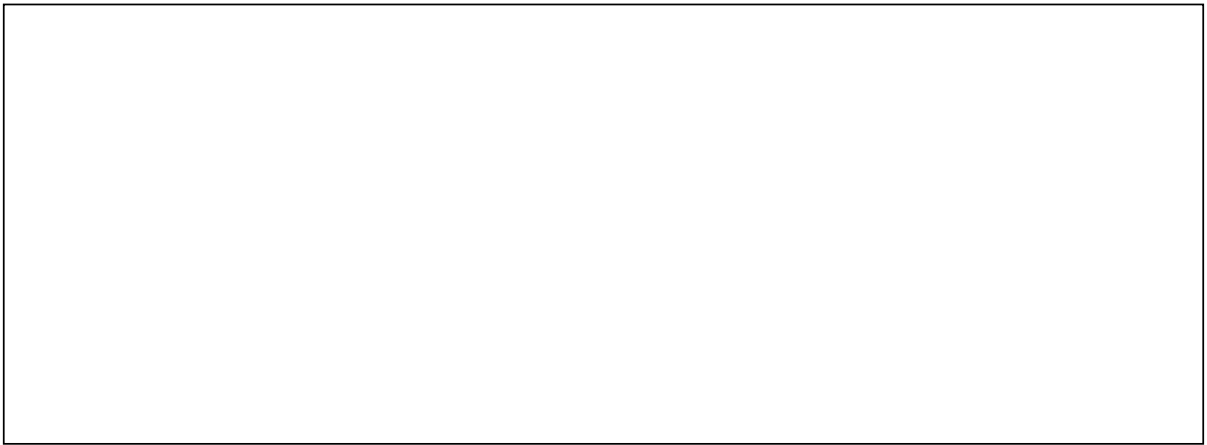
Suggested activities:

- Read the Spiritualism resource sheet (your teacher may suggest that this is cut up and shared for a more kinaesthetic activity). Compare this information with your knowledge of other world religions and then complete the similarities/differences sheet that follows. An example showing some of the comparison with Christianity is included to help on the inside back page.
- Look at the four hymn extracts on the curriculum resource sheet. For each extract answer the questions: “What I think this means is...” “What I think about this is...”

_____ Comparing beliefs _____



Similarities



Differences



Differences



Spiritualism resource sheet

2

A divine service has similar aspects to a Christian service. The order of service would typically comprise an opening prayer, a healing minute, the singing of hymns, an appropriate spiritual reading, an address on Spiritualist philosophy and a demonstration of mediumship.

7



6



4

An example of a Spiritualist reading: "The whole object of earthly life is to have a variety of experiences that will fit the spirit for the next stage beyond earth...that is why you come to earth in the first place. Earth is the training-ground, the school where the spirit learns its lessons which will provide its equipment for the life beyond earth."

(The Silver Birch Book of Questions and Answers, p.148)

1

Spiritualism is a recognised religion and therefore has its own Ministers. The work of Spiritualist Ministers includes conducting funerals, weddings, baby namings and visiting Spiritualists who are ill, in hospital or in prison.

8



3

Spiritual healing involves the channelling of healing energies from the world of spirit through a spiritual healer to the patient and can bring about harmony to the mind, body, spirit and emotions of the recipient. Healing can be hands-on, within a few inches of the patient, or by thought or prayer from a distance.

All Spiritualist healers undergo a two-year educational training period and have to pass an assessment.

Mediumship is a means of enabling people in the spirit world to communicate with us. The main purpose of mediumship is to provide evidence that the spirit of a person survives physical death, not to predict the future, not to give advice and certainly not to counsel! Spiritualism accepts that mediumship cannot provide absolute proof that there is life after death; however, a body of evidence can be so convincing to an individual that it becomes personal proof that those whom we have once known have indeed survived death.

5

Spiritualism is unique, as it does not have a charismatic personality, e.g. Jesus, Muhammad or Buddha at its centre. Instead, it recognises that throughout the ages and across the world individuals have been inspired by teachings and guidance from God and the spirit world.

9

Spiritualist Hymn 1

Our Principles are guidelines;
 We use them all each day.
 The angel friends who gave
 them
 Help us to show the way
 To God, Who is our Father,
 Who loves us all He can,
 And we should love each
 other,
 The brotherhood of man.

10

Spiritualist Hymn 2

Enter in the silence,
 Pause a while to pray;
 Take the best that's in you,
 Give it all away.
 In our healing minute
 Every day we blend;
 Loving thoughts we send to
 All our absent friends.

11

Spiritualist Hymn 3

There is no death - tell out the mighty message;
 There is no death - go tell it far and wide;
 What we call death is but a simple crossing
 Over life's river to the other side.

12

Order of Divine Service

Welcome
 Hymn
 Prayer
 Healing Meditation and Hymn
 Reading
 Address
 Hymn
 Demonstration of Mediumship
 Hymn
 Closing Prayer

13

Spiritualist Hymn 4

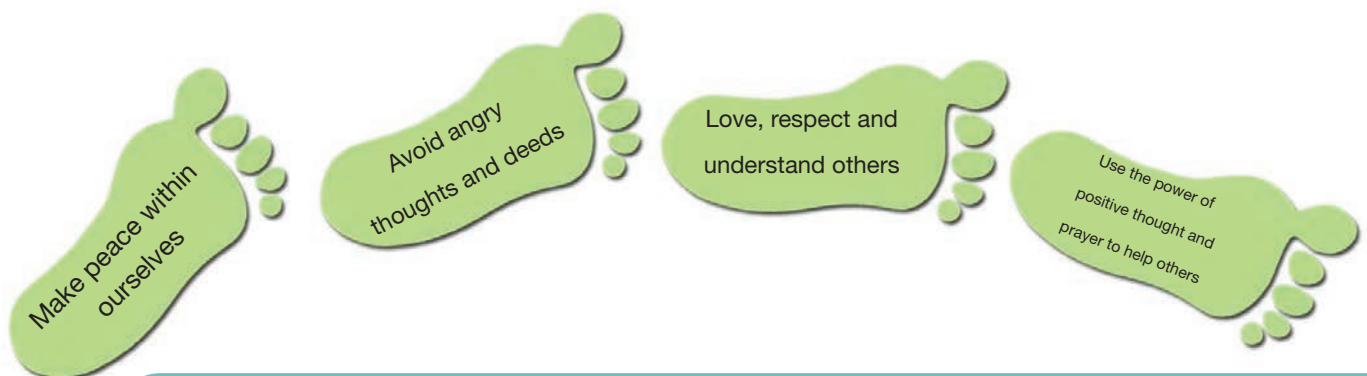
Here in Thy house, Great Spirit of
 Light, Gladly we sing of Thy power
 and might, Trusting in Thee each
 day more and more, Knowing that
 Love is the true spirit law.
 Grant us communion with those
 above;
 May we be conscious of their great
 love. Teach us to serve Thee,
 helping mankind; Comfort the tired
 ones in body and mind.

Spiritualism in Action

Overview: Every day is a new day and as such offers new opportunities and chances to develop further as evolving spiritual beings. Living by the Seven Principles, Spiritualists believe they have a duty to contribute more fully to the world in which they live. This contribution takes many forms but this section will allow pupils to explore Spiritualism in action.

The Peace Walk

The Peace Walk is an annual event for Spiritualists which takes place at the National Memorial Arboretum. It unites Spiritualists from across the country in a religious service, followed by a walk through the grounds of the Arboretum in a procession ending at the Spiritualist memorial. Once at the memorial, Spiritualists lay flowers and wreaths as a visible symbol of a peaceful philosophy. The Peace Walk is significant, as it demonstrates the commitment to peace within Spiritualists' own lives and across the world as a whole. Refer to resources 6,7,8 on page 11 and the photograph on page 9.



Suggested activities:

1. The Peace Walk is an important representation of the Spiritualist approach to life. In keeping with the Seven Principles Spiritualists are encouraged to promote peace and seek peaceful solutions to situations. Create a short drama that illustrates how a difficult situation can have a peaceful outcome. Examples could include:
 - “A fight is about to start on the playground: what should you do?”
 - “Somebody blames you for something you haven’t done: what should you do?”



Peace Minute

Spiritualists believe there is great strength in the power of positive thought. They believe that if they collectively use this energy to send out positive thoughts to all who hold power in the nations of our world, to change their way of thinking, then they could become a great force for good in the world. Spiritualists are therefore adding their energy to world peace by upholding a Peace Prayer Minute every day at either 11am or 11pm.

Suggested activities:

1. If you were to hold a Peace Prayer Minute, what would you choose to think about?
2. Answer this evaluation question:
The Peace Prayer Minute is a worthwhile activity.

Discuss

Spiritual Healing

Spiritual healing is an important part of Spiritualism. It involves the channelling of healing energies from the spirit world to the patient and can bring about harmony to the mind, body, spirit and emotions of that recipient. It can be very relaxing and patients sometimes notice the healer's hands becoming quite warm as the healing energies start to flow. All Spiritualist healers undergo a two-year educational training period and have to pass an assessment. Most Spiritualist healers give their services free of charge and churches usually work on a freewill donation basis.

- **Parent comforting child**
- **Holistic therapies**
- **Medical doctor prescribing healing**
- **Internet research into spiritual healing**
- **Spiritualist healing being given**

Suggested activities:

Plato (4th century BC) said, 'The cure of the part should not be attempted without the treatment of the whole, and therefore if the head and body are to be well, you must begin by curing the mind.'

1. How relevant is this quote to present-day culture and attitude to orthodox treatment? How does spiritual healing fit into present-day thinking?
2. Why might a person choose to receive spiritual healing?
3. Why do you think the training course lasts for two years?
4. From the background information given draw how you perceive the healing energy to be flowing: from to via The drawings should be colourful; think about what colours would be good for healing and which ones would not.
5. From your drawings explain the colours you have used and how you think that particular colour, or colours, would work on a patient. Sayings associated with colour will be helpful here, for example 'feeling blue' means being sad.
6. Create a collage exploring where you might see healing in action in everyday life, for example someone listening to a person, comforting someone, laughter.

Guidance: These activities are designed to open the student's mind to thinking about how healing energies can be used by a healer and where these energies originate from. By linking colours with healing it can give an insight into why certain sayings about colour originated in regard to one's well-being. The healing energy involves all the colours of the rainbow and each colour has significance. The students could be encouraged to think about the colours they are wearing in regard to how they may be feeling and whether a different colour may make them feel better or worse.

Spiritualists' Lyceum

A Lyceum is a place of learning. The original Lyceum was in Ancient Greece and Aristotle was a famous Greek philosopher who taught there. Andrew Jackson Davies used this name to describe the Spiritualist Sunday Schools which he introduced in America in 1863. The British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union was founded in 1890. Alfred Kitson did much to promote education in Spiritualism for the young at a time when education was not available for all. In many areas of the country today there are Lyceums which work to promote education and training in the Seven Principles and good citizenship.



SNU International

SNU International connects Spiritualists across the world through the internet. Through the internet people from many countries, including America, Africa and Australia, learn more about Spiritualism, take study courses, ask questions and become members.

www.snui.org

SNU Education

The SNU provides education courses so members can learn more about Spiritualism. Some television programmes based on mediums and mediumship show a sensationalised, one-sided view of the Spiritualist religion which is very misleading. Education can redress this balance and is also considered an important way to help people to grow spiritually. Some of the study courses offered by the SNU lead to awards which reflect standards of excellence.

Suggested activities:

The SNU work hard to share information about their religion through education and publicity.

1. What do you now know about Spiritualism that you didn't know before?
2. What further questions would you like to ask?

Useful web sources:

www.arthurfindlaycollege.org
www.snu.org.uk
www.snui.org
www.arthurfindlaycentre.org

Further Reading:

The Religion of Spiritualism

Philosophy of Spiritualism

The Silver Birch Book of Questions and Answers
compiled by Stan A. Ballard and Roger Green

A Guide to Spirit Healing *by Harry Edwards*

Spiritual healing; some questions asked by patients

This is Spiritualism by Maurice Barbanell

Higher Spiritualism by John C. Leonard

Spiritualism and the Religious Education Curriculum

Adapted from: QCA National Curriculum

QCA <http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/>

There are a number of key concepts that underpin the study of RE. Pupils need to understand these concepts in order to deepen and broaden their knowledge, skills and understanding:

- Beliefs, teaching and sources
- Practices and ways of life
- Expressing meaning
- Identity, diversity and belonging
- Meaning, purpose and truth
- Values and commitments

Where appropriate, an exploration of the religion of Spiritualism could be used to explore one or more of these concepts. This could be particularly useful where Spiritualism is considered to be a religious community of local significance.

For example, it may be used to give a local focus to the study of how religion and belief impact on individuals, families and the communities.

Spiritualism Comparing beliefs Christianity

Spiritualism is a faith based on seven guiding principles the first of which proclaims a belief in God as the creator of all that exists. Spiritualists believe that they can communicate with the spirit world either individually or through a medium. This contact proves for them that a life after death is possible.

Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a Jew who was born about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Jesus lived for 33 years before being crucified by the Romans. Christians believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He came to earth to teach about love and fellowship. He represents the person that all Christians must strive to be.

Similarities

Both faiths believe in God

The Seven Principles and the Ten Commandments both give guidance for believers

Both believe in life after death

Worship is an important part of each faith

Differences

The belief in mediumship

Spiritual healing

Differences

The belief in Jesus as son of God

The Bible as holy scripture

If you would like to book a Spiritualist speaker to visit your school, please contact: Head office, Redwoods, Stansted Hall, Stansted, Essex CM24 8UD, telephone: 01279 816363

This is Spiritualism



Permission is granted to photocopy selected pages in this booklet for use in classroom activities in schools

The Seven Principles card sort
 Page 7 version A answers:
1.c 2.e 3.a 4.f 5.b 6.g 7.d
 Page 8 version B answers:
1.c, k, o 2.e, s, p 3.a, h, j 4.f, m, q 5.b, i, l 6.g, t, u 7.d, r, n