

## Values of the ACS

The Association for Children's Spirituality (ACS) is an international network of individuals and groups who recognise the importance of addressing the spiritual lives of children and young people in their research and practice.

Members of the ACS seek to promote, extend and enrich a broad and inclusive understanding of children's and young people's spirituality, in particular their search for meaning and purpose, through connectedness with other people, the natural world and (in the experience of many) the Divine. In this it overlaps with elements of religious experience without being associated necessarily with any set of beliefs.

The Association seeks to give attention to [children's voices](#), experiences and relationships and encourages holistic approaches to work amongst children and young people in a variety of contexts and spiritual traditions world-wide.

The ACS network brings together researchers and practitioners for the purpose of furthering understanding of the spirituality of children and young people, developing theory and practice and raising awareness of the key issues. The network is multi-disciplinary and seeks to encourage, support and connect research and practice across professions, organizations and communities.

As an association we:

- Provide a respectful and supportive community for scholars, researchers, educators, care providers and others interested in children and young people's spirituality - those who seek to learn from each other and raise awareness of the spiritual lives of children and young people worldwide.
- Conduct and reflect on scholarly research and practical application in order to gain a greater understanding of children's and young people's spirituality.
- Disseminate and discuss such findings and understandings.
- Explore how children and young people's spirituality may be supported and fostered in a range of social and cultural contexts.

The association is supported by a website which offers consultancy, resource ideas and a forum for discussion with other members. The association holds an annual *International Conference on Children's Spirituality*. The *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* is the journal of the association.