

The 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.

Our aims

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 professional practice 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.

Methods of working

The aims of the ACS are achieved through:

- Dissemination and discussion of news and information via the ACS website which is hosted by Taylor and Francis and managed by Taylor and Francis and the ACS Webkeepers and other officers. Dissemination includes information about, for instance:
 - Conferences and events.
 - Professional posts and research studentships advertised.
 - Projects and research in progress.
 - Consultancies and publications.
 - Practitioner reflections and examples of good practice.
- Dissemination of news and information through regular emails from the officers and executive via the ACS Membership Secretary.
- The work of the Executive Committee.

- The *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* (IJCS) which is the journal of the ACS and which is published quarterly by Taylor and Francis.
- The annual *International Conference on Children's Spirituality* which is the annual conference of the ACS, but which is hosted and financed independently of the membership through Higher Education institutions in different countries around the world.