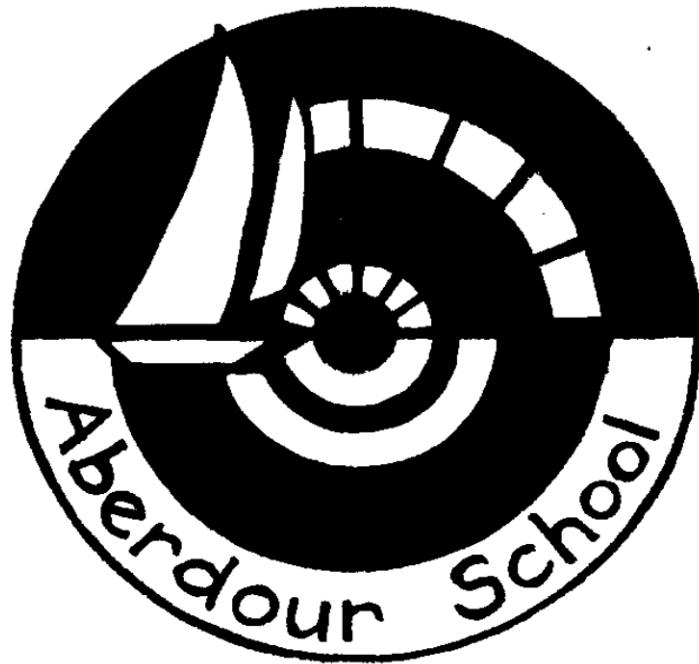


Aberdour Primary School and Nursery



Links with UNCRC

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up. **(Article 14)**

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment. **(Article 29)**

Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live. **(Article 30)**

Provision of Time for Reflection (Religious Observance)

What is Time for Reflection (otherwise known as Religious Observance)?

Religious Observance (RO) is defined for schools in Scotland as: *“Community acts which aim to promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community and express and celebrate the shared values of the school community.”* (Religious Observance Review Group Report 2004)

In line with current policy and legislation all Fife Schools are expected to fulfil this statutory requirement through undertaking acts of Religious Observance (RO) as described below. In this guidance, RO is referred to as Time for Reflection (TfR), although other names may be used to describe it.

Religious observance is different from and should not be confused with the Curriculum area Religious and Moral Education (RME). During RME, pupils learn about Christianity and other World Religions through festivals, artefacts and beliefs.

Time for Reflection in Aberdour Primary School

Aberdour Primary school places high importance on ensuring that TfR is inclusive of a diverse range of faith and belief traditions and reflects both faith and non-faith perspectives. We are proactive in ensuring high-quality, pupil, staff, and partner-led opportunities and events that enable a shared community understanding and celebration of the diversity within TfR.

Our approach reflects the diverse beliefs, cultures and backgrounds represented within our school community and seeks to foster respect, empathy, understanding and inclusion for all.

We work closely with our school chaplaincy team and other visiting speakers who support us in planning, delivering and reviewing our TfR programme.

We welcome the opportunity to work with a range of partners who represent faith and non-faith groups which reflect and are relatable to the diverse beliefs and values of our school community.

TfR links to our school vision and values in the following ways:

- **Respect** – foster respect by encouraging pupils and staff to value the beliefs, experiences and contributions of others, recognising the dignity and worth of every individual within our diverse school community
- **Kindness** – promote kindness by creating opportunities to reflect on empathy, compassion and care for others, inspiring positive actions that strengthen relationships and support wellbeing.
- **Honesty** - develop honesty by encouraging self-reflection, integrity and personal responsibility, supporting pupils to act truthfully, learn from their experiences and make positive choices
- **Fairness** - nurture fairness by encouraging understanding, inclusion and social responsibility, helping pupils to recognise their role in creating a community where everyone is treated with equity and respect

Opportunities for TfR are provided for our young people in the following ways:

- Assemblies are held weekly in Aberdour Primary focused on our school, our values and how we reflect these values in our interactions with our wider community. We have strong links with St Fillan's Church in Aberdour who support us in church services held at key points over the year including Christmas and Easter.
- Involvement in community projects to support for example developing the value of charity eg Community Café.
- Focused year group, small group or whole school opportunities to develop the young person's four capacities to be: a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor.
- Whole school events that celebrate and promote the diverse achievements, cultural heritage, and talents of young people e.g. Award ceremonies or other family engagements.
- Prayer space following the faith needs of the school community.

What part does worship play in the school TfR programme?

Our school approach to TfR aligns with the recommendations of the Religious Observance Review Group Report 2004:

"Where ... there is a diversity of beliefs and practices, ... the appropriate context for an organised act of worship is within the informal curriculum as part of the range of activities offered for example by religions, groups, chaplains and other religious leaders." (Religious Observance Review Group Report 2004). This may include, for example, lunchtime or after-school activities or events.

We have a partnership with Andrea Fraser at St Fillan's church who supports us and also delivers a yearly programme with our P7 year group. This partnership is evaluated as part of our continuous self-evaluation processes at Aberdour Primary.

Can I withdraw my young person from Time for Reflection/ Religious Observance?

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/ carers/ families do have the right to withdraw their child from Time for Reflection/ Religious Observance. Where a request is made, we will work in partnership with families to manage this with sensitivity and understanding.

If you wish to make a request please email: aberdourps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk Following receipt of this communication, a member of the school Senior Leadership Team will arrange a meeting with you to explain in more detail our inclusive approach to RO, discuss any implications for withdrawal and to agree suitable arrangements as an alternative where required. Where a young person wishes to undertake religious practice or worship as part of their school day, we will seek to provide facilities which support this.