



Provision of Religious and Moral Education/ Religious Observance



WHAT IS TIME FOR REFLECTION OR 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.

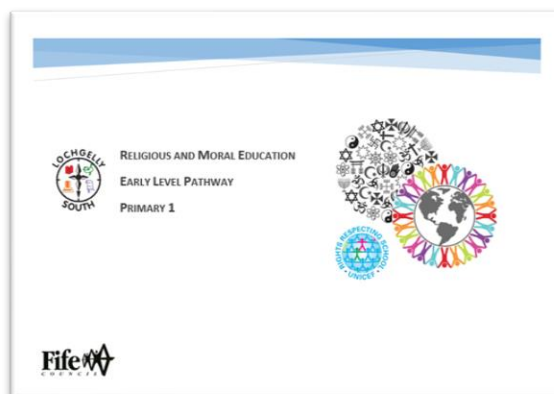
TIME FOR REFLECTION IN LOCHGELLY SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lochgelly South places high importance on ensuring that Religious and Moral Education 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 our Religious and Moral Education programme.

OUR PLANNING MATERIALS

Our pathways cover a range of topics to meet the Religious and Moral Education outcomes and benchmarks specified by the Curriculum for Excellence. Our plans also include various other festivals and traditions which are outside of the main World Religions but a part of the culture of pupils in our school. These may be celebrated by people who do not consider themselves to be religious. They provide suggested activities and highlight useful guidelines and resources. They also outline the expected themes for a particular stage, which are organised into

- Religious stories linked to values and messages
- Traditions
- Christmas Focus
- Easter Focus
- Development of belief, faith, values and social skills



We work closely with St Serf's Church, our school chaplaincy team and other visiting speakers who support us in planning, delivering and reviewing our Religious and Moral 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.

OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

At Lochgelly South, our **Vision** is

- Working Together
- Learning Together
- Achieving Together

And our **Values** are

- Relationships
- Respect
- Responsibilities

Our RME (Religious and Moral Education) programme effectively promotes the values of respect, responsibility, and relationships in the following ways:



Respect

- **Learning About Diverse Cultures and Religions:** Introducing students to different religions and cultural practices helps them understand and appreciate diversity, fostering a respectful attitude towards others.
- **Classroom Discussions:** Encouraging open discussions about moral and ethical issues allows students to listen to and respect different viewpoints.

Responsibility

- **Personal Accountability:** Teaching students about the consequences of their actions and the importance of making ethical choices helps them develop a sense of responsibility.
- **Community Projects:** Involving students in community service projects or school responsibilities (like classroom duties) instills a sense of responsibility and the importance of contributing to the community

Relationships

- **Teamwork Activities:** Group projects and cooperative learning activities help students develop interpersonal skills and learn the value of working together.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Teaching students strategies for resolving conflicts peacefully helps them build and maintain healthy relationships with their peers.



As a Rights Respecting School, this policy is also founded on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief, and religion)

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to 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 29 (goals of education)

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 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups)

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.

It should be noted that many of the rights laid down in the Convention have to be provided by adults or the state, however, the Convention also refers to the responsibilities of children in particular to respect the rights of others.

(ADAPTED FROM A UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RESPONSIBILITIES, BY AN ORGANISATION CALLED WORLD GOODWILL.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION ARE PROVIDED FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Assemblies focused on our school, our values, and how we reflect these values in our interactions with our wider community will be held weekly.
- Involvement in community projects to support, for example, developing the value of charity, including the MacMillan Coffee Morning, Poppy Appeal, Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day), The Cottage Centre, and Fareshare.
- 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. This includes Pupil Leadership groups.
- Whole school events that celebrate and promote the diverse achievements, cultural heritage, and talents of young people. This includes Scots' Night, the Nativity, Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Summer assemblies for parents.
- Working with St Serf's Church to provide religious education, e.g., Bubblegum & Fluff, the Easter Code, termly visits from our local chaplain Alasdair Baijal, Friendship Fortnight at the beginning of every year, Keeping Your Cool in School to teach moral strategies of dealing with conflict and friendships.

WHAT PART DOES WORSHIP PLAY IN THE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME?

Our school approach to Religious and Moral Education 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.

CAN I WITHDRAW MY YOUNG PERSON FROM RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION/ 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: lochgellysouthps.enquires@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 on 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

