

Religious and Moral Education at McLean Primary

Provision of Time for Reflection (Religious Observance)/ Religious and Moral Education (RME)

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)/ Religious and Moral Education (RME)** , although other names may be used to describe it.

Time for Reflection/ Religious and Moral Education in McLean Primary School

McLean Primary School places high importance on ensuring that Religious and Moral Education (RME) 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 RME . We have a progressive pathway covering all elements of religious and Moral education which all children follow through their learning journey.

The emphasis within this pathway is to develop an understanding of Equality and, Diversity and Respect for all through learning about feelings, positive relationships, different cultures, beliefs , traditions and Festivals all of which that form part of the wider community in Scotland and around the wider world.

We welcome and look for the opportunities 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 the wider community.

At Christmas we visit our local church for a Carol Service and perform a school nativity.

On other occasions we hope to be able to visit other local places of worship or hear from visitors from other faiths .

None of these activities involve children in direct acts of worship.

With a focus on Positive relationships, Equality, Diversity respect for all
Opportunities for TfR/ RME 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 for P1-P3 and P4/P7 weekly with whole school assemblies at least termly.
- Involvement in wider community projects to support for example developing the value of charity.
- Weekly opportunities for all children to develop the four capacities to be: a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor.

- Whole school activities that celebrate and promote the diverse achievements, cultural heritage, and talents of young people in class, at weekly assemblies at whole school assemblies and through our Feel Good Friday and wider achievement celebration.

What part does worship play in the school RME programme?

Our school approach to RME 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 activities within class and at assemblies.**

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: mcleanps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk

Following receipt of this communication, a member of the school Senior Leadership Team will arrange a time to talk 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 after discussions with the child's family.

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