



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.

Time for Reflection in St. Leonard's Primary School

St. Leonard's 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. 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:

- Our school values are: Honest, Fair, Respect, Ambition.
- Our school vision is: 'Inspire, believe, together we achieve'.
- Understanding and learning about a diverse range of faith and belief traditions and faith and non-faith perspectives supports us to be respectful of all who attend St. Leonard's Primary School. This in turn promotes a sense of safety and belonging.
- Taking opportunities to learn together and from each other also helps us to have unique opportunities to hear from those in our community how their faith and beliefs influence their daily lives.

Opportunities for TfR 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 six times per year (insert link to assembly schedule as appropriate).
- Involvement in community projects to support for example developing the value of charity.
- 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 value our close partnership with the community of St. Leonard's Church. Our school Chaplain, Gayle Taylor, visits school regularly, joining assemblies, supporting end of term services and bible alive/scripture union sessions. Their support and this partnership will be evaluated as part of our ongoing self-evaluation and SIP review with all stakeholders.

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: stleonardsps.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.