

Strathallan Primary School & ELC
Provision of Time for Reflection (Religious Observance) Rationale
April 2025



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)**

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 Strathallan Primary School & ELC

Strathallan Primary School & ELC places high importance on ensuring that Time for Reflection 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:

- **Ambition** – we encourage children to aspire to achieve their goals and beliefs.
- **Caring** – our children are encouraged to display care, compassion and empathy to children and adults.
- **Included** - at our Assemblies (Together Times) we plan opportunities to celebrate and involve children in sharing their experiences of key religious events and our school vision and values.
- **Respect** – we value equality and diversity of all children and adults in our school, displaying respect to different beliefs and religions.

Opportunities for TfR are provided for our children in the following ways:

- Assemblies (Together Times) are held weekly in Strathallan PS & ELC focused on our school, our values and how we reflect these values in our interactions with our wider community. We have a partnership with Newcraigs Church in Kirkcaldy who support us in delivering TfR in our assemblies.
- 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 child'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 children e.g. Award ceremonies or other family engagements.

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 Wendy Slavin at Newcraigs church who supports us in assemblies and also delivers a yearly programme with our P6 year group. This partnership is evaluated as part of our continuous self-evaluation processes at Strathallan PS & ELC.

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: strathallanps.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 child wishes to undertake religious practice or worship as part of their school day, we will seek to provide facilities which support this.