



A Touch Primary and Nursery
Community with Learning at its Heart

**Religious
Observance**

Provision of Time for Reflection (Religious Observance) at Touch Primary School

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 Touch School

Touch 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 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 School Vision and Values

Our school vision:

Touch Primary School a community with learning at its Heart; built on connection and relationships

This links directly with the purpose of TfR as a way of giving time to individuals to reflect individually and as part of a community on their values, beliefs, uniqueness and commonality.

Our Values:

- *Honesty*
- *Aspiration*
- *Respect*
- *Kindness*

These are common human values and underpin TfR and all of the work of our school.

We consult our school community every three on the relevance of our vision and values and update these as necessary.

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 normally take place, normally on a weekly basis. This may be of a whole school or departmental basis.
- 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. This is planned around our Achievement Framework.
- Whole school events that celebrate and promote the diverse achievements, cultural heritage, and talents of young people e.g. Achievement Assemblies once per term, End of Term Services 4 times per year led by different year groups on rotation

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:

Non-denominational Schools

“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 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 a parent wishes to make a request they should email: Touchps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk Following receipt of this communication, a member of the school Senior Leadership Team will arrange a meeting with the parent 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.