

Stonehouse Primary School
Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Values (Religious Observance)

There is a programme of Religious and Moral Education (RME) taught throughout the school in line with Curriculum for Excellence and Council policy on religious education and religious observance. Stonehouse Primary School is associated with St Ninian's Parish Church. As a school we visit the church on an adhoc basis. We also work in partnership with Children's ministry workers from Overtown Gospel Hall. They visit our school once per term. Each visit usually consists of a whole school assembly and then a workshop with P6/7 children.

Scottish Government Ministers consider that religious observance complements religious education and is an important contribution to pupils' development. It should also have a role in promoting the ethos of a school by bringing pupils together and creating a sense of community. There is a statutory provision for parents wishing to withdraw children from participation in religious observance. This right of parents' wishes will be respected. Where a child is withdrawn from religious observance, schools will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity. Equalities Integral to this guidance is the principle of mutual respect. The diversity of belief and tradition provides an ideal context in which pupils can learn about, and so learn from, what is important in the lives of themselves and others.

South Lanarkshire's guidance recognises and welcomes diversity and promotes respectful understanding. Parents may request that their children be permitted to be absent in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Advance notice should be provided to the school when children will be absent. Appropriate requests will be granted and the pupil noted as an authorised absentee in the register.