



**CRAIGROYSTON**  
Community High School, Edinburgh



# Time for Reflection Policy

 **C**ourage | **C**ompassion | **H**igh Expectations | **S**olidarity

# 1. National and Local Context

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, and the advice contained in the Scottish Government's letter of February 2011, it is the policy of the authority and this school to hold acts of religious observance and time for reflection.

The most recent census showed that Christianity remains the main religious influence in Scotland. The majority of the Scottish population reported having a religion. There is an expectation that Scotland will become increasingly diverse in the range of faith and belief traditions represented. It is important that Religious Observance reflects and understands this diversity and respects all faiths and none.

Given the wide definition of Religious Observance and The City of Edinburgh Council's commitment to inclusion of all learners regardless of faith perspective the decision was taken to refer to Religious Observance as "Time for Reflection" from now on.

## 2. Aims of TfR in Craigroyston Community High School

Time for Reflection is now about providing opportunities for spiritual development of all members of the school community. This is about:

- Sensing values: attitudes and feelings about what is really important, what really matters;
- Sensing meaningfulness: the ability to make connections or to see potential patterns in one's life which give it meaning;
- Changed quality of awareness: the feeling of being 'at one' with nature, oneself and others;
- Sensing 'otherness': the view held by some that humans are more than their physical elements;
- Sensing challenge: being challenged and moved by experiences such as love, beauty, goodness, joy, compassion, injustice, evil, suffering, death;

- Sensing mystery: experiences of awe, wonder and mystery about the natural world, human achievement and for some a divinity.

(Religious Observance Review Group Report, 2004)

### 3. Shared Values

Curriculum for Excellence highlights wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity as values upon which Scottish society is based. Time for Reflection gives young people an opportunity to reflect upon these as well as the shared values of Craigroyston Community High School. These are:

Courage

Compassion

High Expectations

Solidarity

### 4. Formats

TfR will be delivered in several formats across the school year. These will include:

- Year group/ whole school assemblies;
- School events such as listening to guest speakers;
- Tutor time events.

## 5. Withdrawal from TfR

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents have the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from TfR. In the past the school has dealt with such requests with sensitivity and understanding and this approach will continue.

The Head Teacher or Depute will meet with any parent who wishes to discuss withdrawal from TfR and they will ensure that the parent is clear about the school's policy on TfR.

In particular parents should be assured that the calendar of events planned by the school is inclusive and takes an open and respectful approach and will not compromise the beliefs of any pupils or their families. Where a child is withdrawn from TfR, suitable arrangements will be made for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.

The school also adopts an inclusive approach to any child who wishes to withdraw from education to undertake religious practice or worship and will seek to provide facilities in order to allow them to do this.