



Boroughmuir
High School

Time for Reflection Policy Statement

May 2015

Respectful * Inclusive * Resilient

Introduction

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 the school to hold acts of Time for Reflection.

Definition

Time for Reflection 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"

Time for Reflection Review Group Report

Purpose

Time for Reflection will provide a variety of experiences which will be meaningful to all pupils and staff, aiding their spiritual development.

The school community comprises staff, pupils and families from a variety of faith backgrounds and worldviews¹. This diversity will be valued and considered when planning acts of Time for Reflection.

Time for Reflection will strive to be meaningful in the social, cultural and educational context of today. It should assist in bringing the school together and creating a feeling of shared identity.

Aims

The aims of Time for Reflection are defined as:

"To promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community; to express and celebrate the shared values of the school community"

Time for Reflection Review Group Report

Spiritual Development

"Includes being helped to recognise, reflect upon and develop a deeper understanding of the values and worth of each individual"

Time for Reflection Review Group Report

A Curriculum for excellence encourages each individual within a school community to develop the four capacities; it is therefore vital that the Time for Reflection policy follows these guidelines and enables everyone to develop as "a successful learner, confident individual, responsible citizen and effective contributor".

¹ See appendix 1

To further these aims, the school will:

- Allow all members of the school community to engage in shared activities reflecting on and expressing their spiritual needs and aspirations;
- Celebrate important occasions in the life of the school and the community;
- Involve all members of the school community in experiences which stimulate, challenge and extend their capacities for spiritual response to the world in which they live.
- Focus on and examine the shared values within our community

Withdrawal

The terms of the Education (Scotland) Act allow parents/carers the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from Time for Reflection and the school will deal with such requests with sensitivity and understanding. If any parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child they should make an appointment with the Head Teacher.

Parents/carers should be reassured that the Time for Reflection planned by the school adopts an open and respectful approach and does not seek to compromise the beliefs of any pupils or their families.

Where a child is withdrawn from Time for Reflection, suitable arrangements will be made for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.

Frequency

The school will follow the City of Edinburgh authority policy of a minimum of six Time for Reflection opportunities per year for each pupil.

Quality

The School intends to provide Time for Reflection events of high quality which will further the aims as defined above.

Any requests to organise a Time for Reflection event by members of the school community will be positively considered and there is a request form attached².

² See appendix 2

The Time for Reflection Team

Organisation

A programme of Time for Reflection events will be drawn up at the start of each year. It is understood that pupils will assemble during the school year for a variety of events and a range of reasons. A clear distinction will be maintained between assemblies for Time for Reflection and assemblies for other purposes; to allow all members of the school community to participate with integrity. All activities will be planned around the principles for design as outlined in A Curriculum for Excellence and will enable them to develop the four capacities of successful learners, responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors.³

Evaluation

Regular evaluation of the programme and quality of the events will take place under the direction of the head teacher or the person nominated by the head teacher. The quality of Time for Reflection may also be subject to external evaluation by officers of the authority or HMIE inspectors.

Location

Consideration will be given to providing the most appropriate high quality location for Time for Reflection events in the school to allow for full participation in the event.

Diversity and Flexibility

The school will develop Time for Reflection in a creative way which is most appropriate to this school community.

Worship

A clear distinction will be kept between Time for Reflection and worship. Worship is a free response which assumes three elements, belief, desire and commitment. Time for Reflection in the school context does not assume these elements, but encourages pupils to reflect on the shared values and the lifestyles that are represented in the community. Time for Reflection is designed to promote meaningful dialogue and assist in bringing the school together and creating a feeling of identity.

The school will consider positively requests by members of the school community for organised acts of worship within the informal curriculum of the sc

³ See appendix 3

