

Queen Anne High School



Curriculum for Excellence: Religious Observance (RO)

QAHS Time for Reflection Policy

<p><u>Policy influenced by a variety of research/sources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum for Excellence – Provision of Religious Observance In Scottish Schools – March 2017• Curriculum for Excellence Briefing Paper 16 – Religious Observance (Time for Reflection) – November 2014• The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 which imposes a statutory duty on all local authorities to provide Religious Education and Religious Observance• Paragraph 6, Schedule 1 of the Education (School and Placing Information - Scotland) regulations 2012 with regard to what a schools handbook should say about RO• Curriculum for Excellence – Provision of Religious and Moral Education in non-Denominational Schools and Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools - February 2011	<p><u>Development and consultation throughout session 2017 - 2018:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Captains• Pupil Leadership Team (Junior Phase and Senior Phase)• Pupil Focus Group• Parent Council• Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies Department
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Time for Reflection (Religious Observance) is defined as follows:

“Community acts which aim to promote the spiritual development of all members of the school’s community and express and celebrate the shared values of the school community”

Spiritual development is defined as something which includes being helped to recognise, reflect upon and develop a deeper understanding of the value and worth of each individual which comes from one’s dignity as a person.

Diversity: We are committed to nurturing the ‘**human-aspect of our school**’ by building positive relationships based on mutual respect and equality. It is important to us that everyone within our community is treated fairly, respectfully and without discrimination. We are committed to the promotion of equality through the appreciation and celebration of diversity. We promote responsible citizenship within our school community and also encourage learners to be responsible global citizens.

Time for Reflection is an opportunity to raise awareness of the increasing pupil diversity with regard to the range of faiths/ beliefs and non-faith within our community. Time for Reflection enables us to raise awareness, understanding and to promote tolerance.

It is important to us that all pupils feel connected to the school and that each individual has a strong feeling of self-worth. Time for Reflection events must enable all pupils, staff and members of our community to participate with integrity without compromise to their personal beliefs.

Frequency of Time for Reflection: In line with the guidance in the ‘Curriculum for Excellence – Provision of Religious Observance in Scottish Schools – March 2017’ document which refers to Time for Reflection events ‘several times in a school year’ QAHS has developed a programme of six extended assemblies noted in Table 1: Time for Reflection Programme (Page 3).

Right to Withdraw: Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents and carers have the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from ‘Time for Reflection’ (religious observance). The school will deal with such requests with sensitivity and understanding. The Rector will meet with any parents wishing to withdraw their child to ensure that they are clear about the school’s policy and have an understanding of the QAHS Time for Reflection Programme.

Parents and carers should be reassured that the opportunities for ‘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 these activities, suitable arrangements will be made to pupils to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.

Table 1: Time for Reflection Programme

June	<p>(1) QAHS vision & values as defined via the three key concepts: self-worth, personal best and the human aspect of our school. Exploration of what each key concept means and the importance of each. <u>Focus: Introduction of the key concepts to support transition.</u></p>
August	<p>(2) QAHS vision & values as defined via the three key concepts: self-worth, personal best and the human aspect of our school. <u>Focus: Personal Best - what does this look like in QAHS and for young people in other parts of the world? Link to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – the right to an education that enables people to fulfil their potential.</u></p>
November	<p>(3) Remembrance extended assemblies & the QAHS Community Remembrance Service. <u>Focus: Reflection on the impact of war and how it impacts on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in war torn countries – the right to life, survival and development.</u></p>
December	<p>(4) Seasonal Celebration extended assemblies & the QAHS Seasonal Celebration. <u>Focus: Reflection on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and homelessness – the right to protection from violence, abuse or neglect. What is it like to be homeless in Scotland and in other parts of the world at Christmas? Why might someone be homeless? Raise awareness of homeless charities and how to support this issue.</u></p>
February	<p>(5) QAHS vision & values as defined via the three key concepts: self-worth, personal best and the human aspect of our school. <u>Focus: Human Aspect of Our School - what does this look like in QAHS and across the world? Reflection on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the right of freedom from discrimination on the basis of: race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, colour and ethnicity.</u></p>
April	<p>(6) QAHS vision & values as defined via the three key concepts: self-worth, personal best and the human aspect of our school. <u>Focus: Self-worth - what does this look like in QAHS and Scottish society? Use as an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues facing young people and support available.</u></p>