

*Time for reflection.*

Scotland is a small country with just over five million people. Every Scottish school is based on the same values of **wisdom justice integrity** and **compassion**. These are inscribed on the ceremonial mace presented to the new Scottish parliament at its inauguration in 1999

**The heartbeat of God.**

The people of Scotland are descendents of the Celts – a people who acknowledged creation as a gift from the creator. Celts revered the earth and lived in harmony with the seasons. They did not exploit the earth. Celts recognised God's active presence in the world and in all creation as the very heartbeat of God. Creation is the lens through which we catch glimpses of the beauty and endless creativity of God. The earth is our home. Make every day earth day.

'From the beginning until now the entire creation has been groaning  
in one great act of giving birth' (Romans 8: 19ff)

Be gentle with yourself.  
You are a child of the universe  
No less than the trees and the stars  
You have a right to be here.  
With all its sham, drudgery and  
Broken dreams  
It is still a beautiful world.  
(Desiderata)

Exploitation of the earth and its resources alienates us from the earth and from one another. It disrupts our relationships. We are called to a cosmic relationship/friendship, to make choices and live in ways that respect the integrity of creation. Throughout history we have seen how one person can change history – Rosa Parks (the 'mother of the civil rights movement').

*How can you make a difference, how can you change the way you use the earth's resources to make a difference?*

The core values of Scottish education contribute to the sustainability of creation:  
May we have the **wisdom** to treat our earth with respect.  
May we use the earth's resources in ways that are **just** by living simply  
So that others may simply live.  
May our lives be lived with **integrity**  
As we respect the integrity of creation.  
And may we have **compassion** on ourselves and the whole of creation.

**A Scottish Blessing (Adapted)**

May the blessing of light be upon you  
Light without and light within.  
May the sun shine of you like a great peat fire  
So that friend and stranger may come and warm themselves.  
And may light shine out of your eyes, like a candle set in the window of a house  
Welcoming the wanderer come in out of the storm.  
And may the blessing of the rain be upon you  
May it tap on your Spirit and wash it clean  
And leave a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines ... and sometimes a star.

Notre Dame High School, Glasgow  
<http://www.notredamehigh.org.uk/>

And may the blessing of the earth be upon  
Soft under your feet as you pass along the road of life  
Soft under you, tired at the end of a day;  
And may it rest easy over you when your journey is over.  
May it rest so lightly that your soul may rise lightly,  
Up and off on its way to God.  
And now may the Lord bless you and bless you kindly.

**Deep Peace of the running wave to you**

Deep Peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.  
Adapted from ancient Gaelic runes)