

Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

Curriculum for Wales

Religion, Values and Ethics



Foreword

The Curriculum for Wales provides a positive opportunity for all of those involved in education to reflect on why we teach, which concepts are important, how learners can make meaningful progression in their learning and to develop learners of the twenty-first century. It is a rich and varied curriculum encouraging the development of knowledge, skills and experiences for all learners from ages 3-16. Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is one of the mandatory subjects of this curriculum. It is an exciting and pivotal time for the subject as it moves to be within the curriculum, for the first time, as part of the Humanities Area of Learning. Whilst part of the Humanities Area, encompassing geography; history; religion, values and ethics; social studies and business studies, these disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills whilst having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills. 'RVE' incorporates a range of disciplinary approaches that can be used by learners to engage critically with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts. For example, disciplinary approaches relevant to RVE may include religious studies, philosophy, theology, sociology, psychology, and anthropology.

The traditional subject of 'Religious Education' has been renamed 'Religion, Values and Ethics' reflecting the broadening approach of the subject and the diversity of the population within Wales in the twenty-first century. We all have a crucial part to play to inspire our learners to widen their knowledge, skills and experiences within Religion, Values and Ethics. This is both an exciting and challenging opportunity to promote objective, critical and pluralistic studies, encouraging enquiry and investigation into religious and non-religious philosophical convictions within society on a local, national and global platform. Our learners will develop the skills for life-long learning and interest, preparing them for life beyond the school setting.

Schools and settings within the Vale of Glamorgan are seizing opportunities to develop rich, dynamic and innovative RVE within an autonomous school designed curriculum, appropriate for their learners. All schools and settings, within the region, will have 'regard to' their locally agreed syllabus for RVE when designing and implementing their curriculum, following the legislation requirements.

The Curriculum for Wales provides a valuable opportunity to recognise and enhance Religion, Values and Ethics' importance in the role and delivery of wider school foci, including: the development of learner's individual sense of spirituality; the prevent strategy; inclusive education and contributing to one of the four core purposes of the curriculum to become 'ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world'. All schools and settings within the Vale are developing provision for RVE that prepares their learners for life and work in a fast-changing and diverse world, as responsible and informed citizens.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to everyone who has been involved in the creation of this agreed syllabus and to those who will subsequently continue to provide support. I would also like to personally thank the practitioners within the Vale of Glamorgan who I know have worked tirelessly in the preparation of this new curriculum and who will continue to provide the very highest level of teaching and learning experience for all our learners.

Paula Ham

Director of Learning and Skills

Vale of Glamorgan Council

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All information highlighted in 'grey' has been taken directly from the Hwb website and their links are provided.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus for

Religion, Values and Ethics

Audience

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Religion, Values and Ethics agreed syllabus has been written to be accessible to all those responsible for designing and delivering the Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum. The intended audience includes:

- the headteacher of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school
- the governing body of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school
- a provider of funded non-maintained nursery education
- the teacher in charge of a pupil referral unit
- the management committee for a pupil referral unit
- a person who provides teaching and learning for a child, otherwise than at a maintained school, maintained nursery school or pupil referral unit, by virtue of arrangements made under section 19A of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56)
- a local authority in Wales

In addition, the agreed syllabus may also be useful to practitioners, regional consortia, awarding bodies, Estyn, teacher unions, religious organisations, non-religious organisations, parents and carers and other bodies in Wales with an interest in Religion, Values and Ethics.

Overview

Agreed syllabus

“As RVE is a locally determined subject, the agreed syllabus specifies what should be taught in RVE within each of the 22 local authorities in Wales for those schools that teach the agreed syllabus.”

[Guidance for RVE](#)

This document sets out the details regarding teaching and learning in the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in line with the Curriculum for Wales, for all Vale of Glamorgan Council schools and settings maintained by the local authority. This document has been adopted as the agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics in the Vale of Glamorgan, in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has adopted this document as the agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics in May 2022, following a formal recommendation to the local authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on the 26th April 2022.

“Once an agreed syllabus has been adopted, all maintained schools and settings are required to have regard to the agreed syllabus including schools of a religious character, in their design of the agreed syllabus element of their RVE provision.” [Guidance for RVE](#)

All maintained schools in the Vale of Glamorgan Council region are required to ‘**have regard**’ to the agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics when designing their curriculum. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a duty to review the agreed syllabus every five years.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus recognises the approach of the Curriculum for Wales Framework is based on the principle of **subsidiarity** and, as such, the Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus recognises and reflects the autonomy of each school and setting in realising its own curriculum.

Implementation

This Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus will be effective from the **1st of September 2022**, for Religion, Values and Ethics for all learners, up to and including Year 6. For Year 7 learners, schools in the region will have flexibility on whether to roll out the Curriculum for Wales in September 2022, or to roll out the Curriculum for Wales for Years 7 and 8 together in September 2023. During the period of curriculum roll out, as a secondary school or setting 'adopts' the Curriculum for Wales Framework for a particular year group, this Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Vale of Glamorgan Council Agreed Syllabus. From September 2023, this new agreed syllabus, will be effective for all learners, up to and including Year 8, as all schools and settings will have implemented the Curriculum for Wales for those learners. Thereafter, the phased roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales will continue, and this Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus will supersede the other:

- year 9 learners in September 2024
- year 10 learners in September 2025
- year 11 learners in September 2026

More information for schools and settings on the process for opting in to the Curriculum for Wales in respect of Year 7 learners is provided in the '[Journey to curriculum roll-out](#)'.

Further enquiries about this document should be directed to:

Jeremy Morgan

Governor Support Unit

Email: jmorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Tel: 01446 709108

Additional copies can be obtained from:

Vale of Glamorgan Standing Advisory Council (SAC) on Religion, Values and Ethics
via governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Or by visiting the Vale of Glamorgan Council website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Related documents

[Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Act 2021](#)

[The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2018](#)

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council welcomes that Religion, Values and Ethics is a **statutory** requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is **mandatory** for all learners from ages 3 to 16:

Mandatory

“Religion, values and ethics (RVE) is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. RVE forms part of the Humanities Area. This Area encompasses geography; history; religion, values and ethics; business studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, whilst having their own discrete body of knowledge and skills.” [RVE Guidance](#)

The legal requirements of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)

It is essential that Headteachers, senior leaders and governors understand the legal requirements of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales. These can be found in the [RVE section of the Summary of legislation](#).

The RVE legislation can be accessed via the Welsh Government’s Hwb website:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#religion,-values-and-ethics>

The RVE guidance

The guidance on Religion, Values and Ethics is **mandatory**:

Mandatory

“The guidance on RVE contained within the Humanities Area is statutory and published under section 71 of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act) and designed to assist those responsible under the Act for designing the RVE syllabus as part of the school curriculum.” [Summary of Legislation](#)

The Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus follows the statutory Religion, Values and Ethics [statutory guidance](#) on Hwb and forms the basis of this Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus and is to be read in conjunction with this document.

The RVE statutory guidance can be accessed via the Welsh Government's Hwb website:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/humanities/designing-your-curriculum/#religion,-values-and-ethics-guidance>

The statutory RVE guidance includes vital information for schools when designing their curriculum at a local level, including the following areas:

- [RVE within the Curriculum for Wales](#)
- [Spiritual development](#)
- [Cross-cutting themes](#)
- [Cross-curricular skills](#)
- [Skills integral to the four purposes](#)
- [Principles of Progression within humanities](#)
- [Descriptions of learning within humanities](#)
- [Designing your curriculum for RVE](#)
 - [RVE and the four purposes](#)
 - [RVE and the statements of what matters](#)
 - [RVE concepts](#)
 - [The RVE lens \(sub lenses in RVE\)](#)
 - [Learner progression and learning journeys in RVE](#)
 - [Enriching learner experience in RVE](#)
 - [Key links with other Areas](#)
 - [Points to consider for schools and settings](#)
- [Ensuring inclusivity in RVE](#)
- [Education in funded non-maintained nursery settings](#)
- [Education other than at school](#)

Vale of Glamorgan schools and settings take note that in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 this Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus reflects that:

- the religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales
- the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales

Vale of Glamorgan schools and settings are also to take note of the following legislative changes which will have a significant impact on schools:

- There is no parental right to withdraw their children from the academic subject of Religion, Values and Ethics within the Curriculum for Wales
- Maintained schools with nursery age children and funded non-maintained nursery settings must provide Religion, Values and Ethics for all their learners from age three from September 2022
- Post 16 Religion, Values and Ethics in maintained schools is optional for post 16 learners from September 2027

Designing your RVE Curriculum

The starting point for any curriculum design is [Hwb](#). Any changes will also be made centrally on Hwb, so it is advised that you read and check information on the [Curriculum for Wales](#) regularly.

Each school and setting will need to decide how Religion, Values and Ethics best works within their approach to the Humanities Area. For example, curriculum design can be integrated, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or disciplinary. Curriculum design should be evaluated regularly in line with the Curriculum for Wales Framework. All schools and settings must also have regard to this locally agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics when designing their curriculum.

The area on the [Humanities Area of Learning Experience \(Area\)](#) is also crucial for designing your Religion, Values and Ethics curriculum.

Here you will find the following areas:

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Statements of what matters](#) (mandatory)
3. [Principles of progression](#) (mandatory)
4. [Descriptions of learning](#)
5. [Designing your curriculum](#)

The section on 'designing your curriculum' has the following information that you will also find useful:

- [Cross-curricular skills and integral skills](#)
- [Specific considerations for this Area](#)
- [Key links with other Areas](#)
- [Cross-cutting themes](#)

Other Areas of the RVE Guidance

There are other areas of the Curriculum for Wales, Religion, Values and Ethics Summary Legislation and Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance that will advise and guide schools and settings. Here are some of those areas and links:

- [Religion, Values and Ethics Post 16](#)
- [Enriching Learner Experience in Religion, Values and Ethics](#)
- [Spiritual Development and Religion, Values and Ethics](#)
- [Ensuring Inclusivity in Religion, Values and Ethics](#)
- [Religion, Values and Ethics in Funded Non-maintained Nursery Settings](#)
- [Religion, Values and Ethics for Education other than at School](#)

Suggested points to consider for Vale of Glamorgan Schools and Settings

It is advised that the following questions, from the [RVE Guidance](#) on Hwb, can be useful when designing your curriculum for Religion, Values and Ethics:

- Have you considered how RVE will work best within the Humanities Area?
- Have you had regard for your agreed syllabus for RVE?
- Does your curriculum design for RVE support the realisation of the four purposes?
- Have you used the statements of what matters for this Area to inform your curriculum design?
- Have you used RVE concepts in your curriculum design?
- Have you considered a range of sub lenses through which to view RVE concepts to support curriculum design?
- Have you considered learning progression in RVE, using the principles of progression and descriptions of learning in the Humanities Area?
- Have you considered the 'learning journeys' provided to support your understanding of progression in relation to RVE?
- Have you reflected on the possible learning journeys of your own learners to support curriculum design for RVE?
- Have you included opportunities in your curriculum design for enriching learner experiences in RVE?
- Have you made key links between RVE and the other areas of learning and experience?
- Have you included opportunities for learners' spiritual development in RVE?
- Does your curriculum design for RVE ensure an appropriate depth, breadth and quality of learning?

The ‘Right to Withdraw’ in the Curriculum for Wales

*“There is **no** parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales.” [RVE Guidance](#)*

In the Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics is a **statutory** requirement for all learners from age 3 to 16. The timetable for these changes is as follows:

Primary aged learners – September 2022

Year 7 learners – September 2022 OR September 2023, depending on when the school/setting rolls out the Curriculum for Wales

Year 8 learners – September 2023

Year 9 learners – September 2024

Year 10 learners – September 2025

Year 11 learners – September 2026

This is in line with every other academic subject in the Curriculum for Wales.

Note that parents may still request that their children are withdrawn from ‘[collective worship](#)’ from September 2022, if they wish, as this is distinct and separate from the academic subject of Religion, Values and Ethics.

Additional supporting materials for Vale of Glamorgan schools and settings

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Standing Advisory Council for RVE (SAC) will continue to provide supporting materials, in addition to this agreed syllabus. These will be regularly updated and are designed to provide ongoing support for practitioners. These are intended to be ‘live’ and working documents, materials and resources to reflect the evolution of the Curriculum for Wales.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Vale of Glamorgan ‘SAC’ welcome contributions and suggestions for the additional supporting materials. Working committees may be set up to support the development of these materials. If there are any queries, please contact the Clerk to SAC at:

Jeremy Morgan (Governor Support Unit)

Email: jmorgan@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or governors@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Contact

For further guidance on the Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed syllabus and the Religion, Values and Ethics Curriculum, please contact:

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