

Religion, Values and Ethics

What's Changed?

RVE now sits within the curriculum for Wales

RVE is situated **within** the Humanities AoLE and 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.

Importance of Concepts

Concepts are important in RVE because they are central ideas that help learners to make sense of and interpret human experience, the natural world and their own place within it.

RVE - 3 to 16

RVE is '**mandatory**' for all learners aged **3 to 16**.
3 to 5 year olds should still be provided with pluralistic RVE.

Foundation and voluntary controlled schools that have a religious character

Schools should ensure that the teaching and learning to be designed having regard to the agreed syllabus. However, there is an exception, learner's parents can request that their child be provided, instead, with the additional provision that accords with the school's trust deed, or the tenets of its religion or denomination. If a request of this type is made, it must be complied with.

Subject Name

'Religious Education' is now called:

'Religion, Values and Ethics'

'Right to Withdraw'

"There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales" CfW Act

The timetable for the removal of the right of withdrawal from RVE lessons is as follows:

Primary aged pupils – September 2022
Yr. 7 pupils – September 2022 **OR** 2023
Yr. 8 pupils – September 2023
Yr. 9 pupils – September 2024
Yr. 10 pupils – September 2025
Yr. 11 pupils – September 2026

RVE will be delivered in an 'objective critical and pluralistic' way and so there is no right to withdraw as with every other subject in the curriculum.

'Objective, Critical and Pluralistic' RVE

RVE must always be 'objective, critical and pluralistic', in content, pedagogy and delivery, across all schools and settings within Wales. This is now more important due to the changes in the right to withdraw legislation. All learners must be offered opportunities through RVE to engage with different religious and non-religious philosophical convictions in their own locality and in Wales, as well as in the wider world. Practitioners are required to plan and teach RVE whilst maintaining teacher impartiality and recognise the potential issues when discussing or studying sensitive topics.

'Religious' and 'Non-religious Philosophical Convictions'

RVE in the CfW:

- must reflect the fact 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; and
- must also reflect the fact that a range of **non-religious philosophical convictions** are held in Wales e.g. secularism, atheist or Humanism views.

Agreed Syllabus

Those responsible for designing RVE and the delivery of it will need to '**have regard to**' their locally agreed syllabus. 'Have regard to' means that schools must follow unless there are compelling or exceptional reasons not to do so.

'Post 16'

This is no longer mandatory provisions. Learners over the age of 16 will now be able to '**opt into**' RVE, where previously there was a requirement for all learners in sixth form to study religious education. If a learner chooses to opt into RVE then the school **must provide RVE** which is 'objective, critical and pluralistic'.

Voluntary aided schools that have a religious character

The Act requires the teaching and learning secured for learners to be that for which provision accords with the school's trust deed or its religion or denomination. Although, there is an exception to this which enables a learner's parents to request that their child be provided, instead, with the additional provision designed having regard to the agreed syllabus. If a request of this type is made, it must be complied with.