

Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in Wales: An overview

RVE is situated within the wider context of the Curriculum for Wales. The curriculum is underpinned by educational purpose, progression and the entitlement of every learner. The four purposes provide the overarching vision for curriculum design, shaping the knowledge, skills and experiences that schools provide to support learners in becoming ambitious, capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens; and healthy, confident individuals.

The Curriculum for Wales places significant responsibility for curriculum making at school level. Teachers are therefore expected to design and resource learning that is shaped by, and responsive to, the needs of their learners and communities.

The introduction of the Curriculum for Wales also introduced significant changes to the statutory framework for the subject. RVE is mandatory for all learners aged 3 to 16, with no parental right to withdraw. It sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience whereby learners are encouraged to make connections both across Humanities and beyond disciplinary boundaries. The subject has broadened beyond the study of religions to include non-religious philosophical convictions and is intended to be objective, critical and pluralistic in both content and pedagogy.

Despite the move towards school-level curriculum design, RVE remains a locally determined subject. Standing Advisory Councils for Religion, Values and Ethics (SACRVEs) and their locally agreed syllabi continue to operate alongside Curriculum for Wales, providing specialist advice, professional learning and local democratic oversight. In doing so, they support schools as they respond to national guidance and translate it into meaningful classroom practice.

Useful Links

Welsh Government RVE Guidance: [Humanities: Designing your curriculum - Hwb](#)

Estyn Report: [Developing the Humanities area of learning and experience \(AoLE\)](#)

Religion, values and ethics: transformational religious education in Wales? - L. Philip Barnes: [Full article: Religion, values and ethics: transformational religious education in Wales?](#)