

To: Members of the Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education
(SACRE)

Date: 16 June 2022

Direct Dial: 01824 712568

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)** to be held at **10.00 am** on **THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2022** in **BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G Williams
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

AGENDA

SILENT REFLECTION

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

Notice of items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Pages 7 - 18)

To receive and approve –

- (a) the minutes of the Denbighshire SACRE meeting held on 1 February 2022 (copy enclosed), and
- (b) the minutes of the Denbighshire SACRE Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 14 March 2022 (copy enclosed).

5 THE ADOPTION OF THE AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 19 - 40)

To discuss the progress made toward the recommendations from the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on 14th March 2022.

6 UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Pages 41 - 42)

To update the committee about the WG/WASACRE HwB playlists on RVE Training related to the Agreed Syllabus conference.

7 WASACRE (Pages 43 - 44)

To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association on 6th April 2022.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 19th October 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors Representing Denbighshire County Council

Ellie Chard
Cheryl Williams
Ann Davies

Gill German
Merfyn Parry
Huw Williams

Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

Suzy Sturley
Mr. Dominic Oakes
Rev. B H Jones

Rev. Martin Evans-Jones
Jennie Downes
Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

Mrs C Harmsworth
Leah Crimes

Sarah Griffiths
Katie Mason

Co-opted Members

Ms. Tania Ap Siôn

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, *(name)*

a *member/co-opted member of

*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Denbighshire County Council

CONFIRM that I have declared a ***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-

*(*please delete as appropriate)*

Date of Disclosure:

Committee *(please specify)*:

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

*(See the note below)**

Signed

Date

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held by video conference on Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors Ellie Chard (Chair), Meirick Davies, Tony Flynn, Cheryl Williams and Emrys Wynne

Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

Dominic Oakes, Jennie Downes (Vice Chair) and Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

Leah Crimes, Sarah Griffiths and Katie Mason

ALSO PRESENT

RE Adviser (PL), Principal Education Manager (JB) and Committee Administrators (KEJ & RTJ [Zoom Host])

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Rachel Flynn

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest had been raised.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent matters had been raised.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) meeting held on 20 October 2021 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Matters Arising –

Page 1 – Present – a Humanist Representative had been appointed to the SACRE and it was agreed that the list of members present be changed to “Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions” in future.

Page 9 – Item 9: SACRE Draft Annual Report 2020/21 – the report had been finalised and submitted to the Welsh Government.

The RE Adviser reported on the need for SACRE to amend its constitution to reflect the changes to include Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions representation and also in relation to the Curriculum for Wales and the Agreed Syllabus. The Chair asked that the matter be considered at the next scheduled meeting in June 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 20 October 2021 be received and approved as a correct record.

5 CURRICULUM FOR WALES

The Chair welcomed the Principal Education Manager to his first SACRE meeting.

The Principal Education Manager introduced the item on the Welsh Government's new Curriculum for Wales which was due to come into effect in September 2022. He was grateful to the RE Adviser for his presentation and explanation of the Religion, Values and Ethics guidance which had recently been released.

The RE Adviser explained the requirement for convening an Agreed Syllabus Conference to prepare an Agreed Syllabus to be adopted by the local education authority. The intention was to record and circulate the presentation to participants in order to inform that process. In addition to SACRE representatives it was hoped that as many teachers as possible could attend the Agreed Syllabus Conference which had been provisionally scheduled for 14 March 2022.

The RE Adviser gave a presentation which provided an overview of the Curriculum for Wales and explanation of the Religion, Value and Ethics (RVE) guidance.

Areas covered within the comprehensive presentation included –

- curriculum and assessment legislation requirements
- an introduction to the six areas of learning and experience and further specifics and language used – ‘statements of what matters’, ‘principles of progression’, ‘descriptions of learning’ and ‘designing your curriculum’
- specific reference to the statements of what matters for the Humanities area which encompassed context, skills, knowledge and concepts for development
- links to web pages including a summary of legislation with specific legislation relating to RVE guidance and how it could be adopted as an Agreed Syllabus
- the change from religious education to religion, values and ethics to reflect the expanded scope and inclusion of non-religious beliefs including humanism, atheism and secularism
- legislative changes governing the Agreed Syllabus Conference and SACREs to reflect both religious beliefs and non-religious philosophical convictions
- aims of the Agreed Syllabus with the RVE guidance having been written as a basis for the Agreed Syllabus with a high level of collaboration
- legal requirements for an Agreed Syllabus Conference and questions for them and SACREs to consider
- the removal of the right to withdraw from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales

- the purpose of the RVE guidance to provide additional support on how RVE could be taught in the Humanities area and those who must have regard to it
- the context of spiritual development in RVE which remained a key aspect
- designing the curriculum for RVE to include: cross-cutting themes, cross-curricular skills, skills integral to the four purposes, the statements of what matters, RVE concepts and the RVE lens
- learner progression and learning journeys in RVE with illustrative examples, and
- points for schools/settings to consider when designing their curriculum for RVE.

In closing the RE Adviser acknowledged the wealth of information contained within the presentation but highlighted that the Curriculum for Wales and full RVE guidance was far more comprehensive. The recorded presentation and PowerPoint slides would be circulated to SACRE members and schools to view and consider the content at their own leisure.

The following matters were raised during the ensuing debate –

- the RVE guidance was a comprehensive document and a link to the relevant webpage had been included on the agenda for members to access and consider at their leisure; the presentation, whilst also lengthy, had broken-down and summarised elements of the guidance for ease of reference and use
- confirmed the Welsh translation 'Canllawiau ar Grefydd, Gwerthoedd a Moeseg' for 'Religion, Vales and Ethics Guidance' as detailed in the presentation
- Councillor Meirick Davies referred to the current UK Consultation on banning the right to proselytise and potential implications for religious teachings. The RE Adviser had been unaware of the proposals but advised that there was legislation in Wales to protect the teaching of Christianity within the current curriculum and thanked Councillor Davies for bringing the matter to attention
- there was some debate on the purpose of the guidance to be pluralistic and teach what people believed across Wales, not indoctrinating people and telling them what they believed, and whilst church schools may have a different purpose regarding RVE and its delivery, there would still need to be a pluralistic element to that reflecting the differences of the people and beliefs in Wales
- the legislation which underpinned the RVE guidance clearly stated that it must reflect that the religious nature of Wales was Christianity in the main and then other principal religions together with non-religious philosophical convictions, so there was a sense and history of Wales tied in with those teachings
- it was the responsibility of schools to make students aware of the dimensions of morality and spirituality and the learning journeys in RVE were cited as an excellent vehicle for students to explore their own faith and beliefs, with the freedom to make their own personal choices and decide for themselves
- the right of withdrawal would no longer be needed after the implementation of the new curriculum because of the way RVE was taught
- it was clarified that Collective Worship had its own set of laws and philosophy behind that which currently had to be wholly, broadly Christian
- teacher representatives reported upon the plans and developments in their own schools regarding the new curriculum and welcomed the presentation delivered which provided greater clarity in the teaching of RVE going forward and thanked the RE Adviser for all his hard work in that regard.

The Chair thanked the RE Adviser for his interesting and informative presentation which had been well received by SACRE and would also be of huge benefit to schools in developing the new curriculum and teaching of RVE.

RESOLVED that the presentation by the RE Adviser regarding the Religion, Values and Ethics guidance be received and noted.

6 SUPPORTING THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN ADOPTING AN AGREED SYLLABUS

The RE Adviser explained that, following on from the previous agenda item, Denbighshire local authority was required to adopt an Agreed Syllabus, and in order to provide support to the local authority in that regard, it was recommended that SACRE advise the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

SACRE was advised that provisional arrangements had been made to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference at 10.00 am on Monday 14 March 2022 and it was hoped that as many teachers as possible would be able to attend in addition to SACRE members; the recording of the presentation would be shared with schools beforehand. The RE Adviser believed that the RVE guidance as presented met the requirements of the new curriculum and could be adopted as the Agreed Syllabus. He also cautioned against too many adaptations of the RVE guidance given the training provided by the Welsh Government on the guidance which would otherwise fall to the local authority; potential litigations given that the RVE guidance had been through the relevant quality assurances processes, and that guidance also provided a link in with the curriculum for Wales holistically taking into account the other areas of learning and experience and progression steps. He considered that those points should be carefully considered at the Agreed Syllabus Conference when deciding on what to advise the local authority in terms of the Agreed Syllabus.

SACRE was comprised of three separate committees representing (1) Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions, (2) Teacher Associations, and (3) the Local Authority, and the RE Adviser referred to the requirement for each committee to vote separately on the report recommendation. Upon being put to the vote of each committee it was unanimously –

RESOLVED to advise the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

7 WASACRE

The RE Adviser reported that the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 2021 had not yet been made available for circulation but much of the meeting had focused on the RVE guidance. He directed members to the WASACRE website <https://wasacre.org.uk/> for useful information, including agendas and minutes from previous meetings, and also an updated handbook for SACRE members reflecting recent legislative changes and information on SACREs and WASACRE's work. It was noted that the date of the next WASACRE meeting had yet to be confirmed.

RESOLVED that the verbal update from the RE Adviser be received and noted.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of future SACRE meetings in 2022 had been confirmed as follows –

23 June (Thursday) and 19 October (Wednesday)

In closing the Chair thanked the RE Adviser for all his hard work in supporting SACRE and she also thanked members for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

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STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)
Agreed Syllabus Conference held by video conference on 14 March 2022 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Councillors Ellie Chard (Chair), Tony Flynn, Rachel Flynn, Cheryl Williams and Emrys Wynne

Representing Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions

Jennie Downes (Vice Chair) and Collette Owen

Representing Teacher Associations

Leah Crimes and Sarah Griffiths

ALSO PRESENT

RE Adviser (PL), Principal Education Manager (JB), Democratic Services Officer/Zoom Host (KE) and Senior Committee Administrator (KEJ)

Teacher – Susan Williams (Christchurch School, Rhyl)

SILENT REFLECTION

The meeting began with a few minutes silent reflection.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Meirick Davies, Dominic Oakes and Katie Mason

Councillor Emrys Wynne and Sarah Griffiths would be arriving late to the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest had been raised.

3 PRESENTATION ON THE PURPOSE OF AN AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

The RE Adviser explained the requirement for the local authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to discuss the formal adoption of an Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics every five years. He delivered a brief presentation on the purpose of an Agreed Syllabus Conference which covered the following –

- Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) was a locally determined subject and the Agreed Syllabus specified what should be taught in RVE within each of the 22 local authorities in Wales for those schools that taught the Agreed Syllabus
- the Guidance was directed at those responsible for preparing an Agreed Syllabus who must have regard to it, including the Agreed Syllabus Conference and the local authority who had a function in adopting the Agreed Syllabus
- the Agreed Syllabus Conference was legally required to review the syllabus and recommend an appropriate syllabus to the local authority for adoption
- following adoption of an Agreed Syllabus all maintained schools and settings had to have regard to it, including schools of a religious character, in their design of the Agreed Syllabus element of their RVE provision
- a local authority could adopt or adapt the Guidance as their Agreed Syllabus
- the Agreed Syllabus Conference must ensure the syllabus reflected the fact that (a) religious traditions in Wales were in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in Wales, and (b) a range of non-religious philosophical convictions were held in Wales
- detailed the composition of the Agreed Syllabus Conference together with voting rights and unanimous agreement sought on a recommended syllabus of RVE
- the removal of the right to withdraw from RVE in the Curriculum for Wales from September 2022 for all learners up to and including year 6; from September 2023 for years 7 and 8, and following the continuation of the phased roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales from September 2024 for year 9, September 2025 for year 10 and September 2026 for year 11.

There being no questions from members arising from the presentation it was –

RESOLVED that the presentation by the RE Adviser regarding purpose of an Agreed Syllabus Conference be received and noted.

4 THE NEWLY AGREED SYLLABUS

The RE Adviser facilitated a discussion on the advice the Agreed Syllabus Conference would formally provide to the local authority on the adoption of Denbighshire's newly Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, with specific consideration given to adopting the RVE Guidance as Denbighshire local authority's Agreed Syllabus from September 2022 to September 2027.

Members noted the merits of adopting the RVE Guidance in its entirety as the Agreed Syllabus which included: the training provided by the Welsh Government would be applicable to that RVE Guidance; there would be consistency across many other local authorities in Wales working along the same curriculum lines; the RVE Guidance had been designed as a good fit into the new curriculum as part of the Humanities Area of Learning Experience, and the RVE Guidance had already been through the relevant consultations with stakeholder and quality assurance processes meaning there was little scope for potential litigations. The teachers present reported upon the development of the Humanities Area of Learning Experience within their schools and considered that the RVE Guidance linked well within the curriculum and supported the suggestion that it be adopted as the Agreed Syllabus, and that support was also echoed by other members.

Councillor Tony Flynn proposed, seconded by Collette Owen that the local authority be advised to adopt the RVE Guidance, in its entirety, as its Agreed Syllabus.

The Agreed Syllabus Conference was comprised of three separate committees representing (1) Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions, (2) Teacher Associations, and (3) the Local Authority, and the RE Adviser referred to the requirement for each committee to vote separately on the proposition. Upon being put to the vote of each committee it was unanimously –

RESOLVED to advise Denbighshire local authority to adopt the Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance as an Agreed Syllabus from September 2022 to September 2027.

The RE Adviser also sought members' consideration of the following –

- Conwy SACRE had noted the lack of reference to post 16 in the RVE Guidance but that reference to post 16 had been included as part of the legislative summary within the Curriculum for Wales, specifically for RVE because it was no longer applicable for every post 16 pupil to follow an RVE curriculum. However, if a child wished they would still be entitled to receive provision for RVE and it was suggested that entitlement should be explicit in the advice given to the local authority. It was noted that Conwy SACRE had proposed an appendix to the Agreed Syllabus incorporating the reference to post 16 in the legislative summary as guidance in that regard. The Chair proposed, seconded by Councillor Cheryl Williams that the same approach be taken in Denbighshire
- given the phased roll-out of the new Curriculum for Wales it was suggested that the local authority continued with the current Agreed Syllabus in line with that phased approach and the local authority be advised accordingly. Councillor Cheryl Williams proposed that approach, seconded by Councillor Rachel Flynn. Due to the need for both the current and new Agreed Syllabus to be easily accessible the intention was to make it available on the Denbighshire website on the webpage hosting SACRE agendas etc.

Each of the three committees voted separately on the above two propositions and it was unanimously –

RESOLVED to further advise Denbighshire local authority to –

- (a) *include an appendix to the Agreed Syllabus incorporating the reference to post 16 provision of RVE as detailed in the legislative summary within the Curriculum for Wales, and*
- (b) *in line with the phased roll-out of the new Curriculum for Wales, the local authority continues with the current Agreed Syllabus for years 8, 9, 10 and 11 in 2022, for years 9, 10 and 11 in 2023, for years 10 and 11 in 2024, and year 11 in 2025.*

The RE Adviser explained that he had also prepared some supporting material for the Agreed Syllabus which teachers may find useful as part of their curriculum planning, and he guided members through those documents which had been based on information extracted from the RVE Guidance which covered the following –

- possible disciplinary approaches including Religious Studies, Philosophy, Theology, Sociology, Psychology, and Anthropology amongst others
- RVE concepts and connecting them with statements of what matters in the Humanities Area of Learning Experience
- tables to help teachers identify possible concepts they may want to develop in their curriculum and how they may support a greater understanding of the statements of what matters for humanities
- cross referencing the concepts explicitly specified in the statement of what matters and the descriptions of learning with the concepts in the RVE guidance
- seven lenses broken down and examples of learning journeys and progression
- questions included in the RVE Guidance and points to consider for schools and settings when designing their curriculum for RVE including using a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating to evaluate progress.

The RE Adviser was keen to hear the views of the teachers on the supplementary material with a view to undertaking further work on the documents before submission to the next SACRE meeting to consider advising the local authority to provide the support material for all schools. The teachers present voiced their support and thanks to the RE Adviser for the supplementary material which they considered would be beneficial to schools when planning for the curriculum in the earlier stages by breaking down the guidance into one concise document and also for those schools which had progressed further in mapping the new curriculum by using the document to cross reference work produced and evaluate progress.

During further debate it was acknowledged that the supplementary material needed to be presented to schools as a means of supporting them in the development of the new curriculum and not to create additional work or concerns. It was noted that different approaches could be taken by different schools with some benefiting from the structure provided within the document but other schools may wish to take a more organic and fluid approach, with schools using the supporting material to best suit the individual school. There was some discussion as to how best to take the matter forward and it was agreed that the existing Microsoft Teams Group of teachers would be a good way of sharing and developing the support material collaboratively and ensure its use to best effect prior to presenting the document to the next meeting of the Chairs of School Clusters scheduled after Easter which would ensure schools' involvement in the process prior to presenting a final document to SACRE for consideration.

The RE Adviser also drew attention to the lack of formatting of the RVE Guidance in terms of page and paragraph/section numbering and the difficulty in navigating the document as a result. Consequently it was suggested that number formatting be included in the RVE Guidance when it was adopted as the Agreed Syllabus.

The Chair proposed both the above actions, seconded by Leah Crimes and following a vote by each separate committee it was unanimously –

RESOLVED that –

- (a) *the supporting material provided by the RE Adviser be shared and further developed with the Microsoft Teams Teacher Group prior to its presentation to the Chairs of School Clusters and subsequent submission to the next scheduled SACRE meeting for final agreement to advise the local authority to provide that supplementary support material to all schools, and*
- (b) *to further advise Denbighshire local authority to format the Agreed Syllabus appropriately to aid navigation of the document and ease of use.*

At this point the RE Adviser shared his sketch notes and interpretation of the text for each of the statements of what matters as a means of providing pictorial ways of presenting that information which could be made available to schools for use, with the caveat that they be used together with the statement of what matters directly.

Prior to the close of the meeting members were advised that the Chair would write an introduction to the Agreed Syllabus together with a statement from the Education Department to endorse the document for schools prior to its publication.

The Chair thanked the RE Adviser for his hard work and to all members for their contributions. Councillor Emrys Wynne expressed this thanks for the translation service to provide the opportunity for those to use the Welsh language.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am.

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Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		24 th June 2022
Agenda Item:	5	Report Details
<u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u>		
The Agreed Syllabus conference was held on 14 th March 2022.		
<u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u>		
To discuss the progress made toward the recommendations from the Agreed Syllabus Conference.		
<u><i>Recommendations:</i></u>		
To accept the recommendations from the ASC.		

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(Notes on the text

- The text is taken directly from the Religion Values and Ethics Guidance - [Humanities: Designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)
- Changes to the online text are as follows
 - o Inclusion of a contents section (below)
 - o Numbering of the internal headings
 - o When the RVE guidance referred to itself within the text, it has been changed to refer to the Conwy Agreed Syllabus. E.g. In section 3 “The guidance has been written...” has been changed to The Agreed Syllabus has been written...” etc.

Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious, Values and Ethics based on the Religion, values and ethics guidance

- Forward
- 1. Introduction
- 2. The purpose of this RVE guidance
- 3. Audience
- 4. Agreed Syllabus
- 5. RVE within the Curriculum for Wales
- 6. Spiritual development
 - a. Awareness of self in relation to others
 - b. Connections to the wider and the natural world
 - c. Creativity and going beyond the everyday
 - d. Exploration of ultimate questions and contemplation or meaning and purpose
- 7. Designing your curriculum for RVE
- 8. RVE and the four purposes
- 9. RVE and the statements of what matters
- 10. RVE concepts
- 11. The RVE lens
- 12. Learner progression and learning journeys in RVE
- 13. Enriching learner experience in RVE
- 14. Key links with other Areas
- 15. Points to consider for schools and settings
- 16. Ensuring inclusivity in RVE
- 17. Education in funded non-maintained nursery settings
- 18. Education other than at school

Appendix A: Religion, Values and Ethics Post 16

Forward

The new Agreed Syllabus will form part of the new Welsh National Curriculum. However, whilst the majority of the curriculum is nationally defined, Religion, Values and Ethics continues to be a locally determined subject supported by SACRES. Our Conwy SACRE welcomes the new Agreed Syllabus which is pluralistic in nature. For the first time it embraces non-religious philosophical convictions that are held in Wales whilst at the same time reflecting that the religious traditions in Wales are mainly Christian. It also continues to take account of the teaching and practises of the other principal religions in Wales thereby encouraging an understanding of religious and cultural differences within communities.

Consequently the teaching of R.E. has been renamed Religious and Values Education (R.V.E.) Students will now have access to a very considerable number of options in exploring the possible meaning of life and the values that develop from belief. It will also be delivered within the context of Humanities, thereby acknowledging the importance of geographical, historical and economic factors in the formation of belief systems.

The new Welsh National Curriculum is a 'bottom up' venture which means that each school will design its own curriculum on the basis of nationally provided guidance. The skill and commitment of our teachers will therefore be key to the success of its implementation. The teachers delivering the R.V.E. Agreed Syllabus have a statutory guidance framework which is more detailed than any other Area of Learning and which was written by practitioners and Religious Education experts. This should give our teachers considerable confidence in implementing it. The school clusters already established in Conwy will provide opportunities for teachers to share their expertise and experience. The R.V.E. Teachers Group initiated as part of our 3 year SACRE Management plan and supported by our R.V.E. consultant, Phil Lord, will allow us to develop supplementary guidance and support according to feedback from teachers as the new syllabus is gradually implemented across all year groups.

This has been a very challenging time for our teachers, having to implement the new Welsh National Curriculum whilst facing all the disruption and pressures of COVID. We are completely committed at SACRE to supporting them in every way possible. We look forward to the development of a strong partnership with both them and our L.A. in delivering this important area of learning which deals with the spiritual as well as the material aspects of children's lives as they grow into maturity.

Roger Boon (Chair of SACRE) & Dr Lowri Brown (Head of Education Services)
Summer 2022

1 Introduction

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.

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

2 The purpose of this RVE guidance

This Agreed Syllabus is based on the WG's Religion, Values and Ethics Guidance.

The RVE guidance has been written by practitioners and religious education experts to provide additional support on how RVE can be taught within the Humanities Area. It emphasises the integral nature of RVE within this Area and outlines the unique and distinct contribution that RVE makes to the Curriculum for Wales.

More information on the legal status of this RVE guidance can be found in the [legislation summary](#) of the Curriculum for Wales Framework.

Additional guidance relating to RVE for voluntary-aided schools and settings has been produced by the Church in Wales and the Catholic Education Service with funding from Welsh Government.

3 Audience

The Agreed Syllabus has been written to be accessible to all those responsible for designing a curriculum. Those persons who must have regard to the syllabus when designing a curriculum are:

- the headteacher of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school
- the governing body of a maintained school or a maintained nursery school

In addition, the 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 RVE. These bodies do not have to have regard to the syllabus but it may be useful and informative for them to refer to it to better understand the content of a given setting's curriculum.

4 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.

The [RVE guidance](#) is therefore also directed at those responsible for preparing an agreed syllabus, who must have regard to this guidance, including:

- the local authority who have a function in adopting the agreed syllabus drawn up by the Agreed Syllabus Conference
- the Agreed Syllabus Conference
- the body of persons established by the Welsh Ministers to prepare an agreed syllabus if the Agreed Syllabus Conference has been unable to do so

Each local authority has a legal duty to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference to review the syllabus and to recommend an appropriate syllabus to the local authority for it to adopt. The agreed syllabus for each local authority should be reviewed every five years.

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. Should a local authority wish to adopt or adapt the [RVE guidance](#) as their agreed syllabus they may do so.

5 RVE within the Curriculum for Wales

RVE within the Curriculum for Wales can offer a distinctive contribution to the realisation of the **four purposes** for all learners. As such, the syllabus supports schools and settings in developing provision for RVE that prepares learners in Wales for life and work in a fast-changing and diverse world, as responsible and informed citizens.

RVE is situated within the Humanities Area 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. There are also strong relationships between RVE and the other disciplines within Humanities as well as with other Areas.

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. Learners will have opportunities to explore RVE concepts through a variety of sub lenses which make up the RVE disciplinary lens. These concepts and sub lenses are set out in this Agreed Syllabus.

In the Curriculum for Wales RVE is objective, critical and pluralistic, both in content and pedagogy; it is not about making learners 'religious or 'non-religious'. The expression 'objective, critical and pluralistic' comes from European Convention on Human Rights case law. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 ensures that all learners must be offered opportunities through RVE to engage with different religions and non-religious philosophical convictions in their own locality and in Wales, as well as in the wider world.

6 Spiritual development

One of the features of the **four purposes** of the curriculum is that learners will be supported to develop as healthy, confident individuals, ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society. **Statements of what matters** and RVE has many valuable and distinctive contributions to make. The statements of what matters are set out in the What Matters Code and include the key concepts for each Area.

In the context of RVE, spiritual development is concerned with our natural ability to look for, express and understand what is important in life, and to question who we are and why we are here. Spiritual development may or may not involve religion. Through experiencing and reflecting on our relationships, spiritual development may be apparent in the following: awareness of self in relation to others; connections to the wider and the natural world (and, for some people, to a higher power or ultimate reality); creativity and going beyond the everyday; exploration of ultimate questions and contemplation of meaning and purpose.

a Awareness of self in relation to others

Learners can:

- develop a sense of their uniqueness and value
- reflect upon their own beliefs, values and actions, and express and justify their own feelings and opinions
- develop aspirations and learn to live with disappointment
- show empathy and consideration for others
- develop compassion and help others
- develop a voice and listen with respect to the voices of others
- form good relationships
- talk about themselves in relation to others, the world and/or a higher power or ultimate reality
- gain awareness of and respect for the beliefs, teachings and practices of others, as well as an ability to articulate their own
- explore how religious and non-religious beliefs and practices impact on the lives of individuals, the local community and wider society

b Connections to the wider and the natural world

Learners can:

- develop an appreciation of belonging in their locality, Wales and the wider world
- experience the natural world, value the environment and work towards sustainable futures for all
- experience the richness of the stimuli around them through use of the senses
- experience being present in the moment
- develop awareness of the world around them and their place within it
- make sense of their experience of the natural world and of human relationships

c Creativity and going beyond the everyday

Learners can:

- develop creativity and use their imagination
- experience awe and wonder or be amazed by things
- foster curiosity and develop insight

d Exploration of ultimate questions and contemplation of meaning and purpose

Learners can:

- ask, consider and reflect on ultimate questions (the 'big' questions about life)
- discover meaning and purpose in their own lives
- experience that which is beyond the ordinary

Spiritual development can also occur as learners engage with their cynefin and occur in everyday life within their local, national and global communities.

7 Designing your curriculum for RVE

This section is intended to support all those responsible for planning mandatory RVE within this Area.

Curriculum design and development must incorporate, where appropriate, opportunities for learning and consideration of **cross-cutting themes** in the Curriculum for Wales. These cross-cutting themes are: careers and work-related experiences, human rights, diversity, local, national and international contexts and relationships and sexuality education. It is also important that the **cross-curricular skills** of literacy, numeracy and digital competence, as well as the **skills integral to the four purposes** (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, personal effectiveness, planning and organising) are considered in curriculum design.

When realising their curriculum, schools and settings need to decide how RVE 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 guidance.

8 RVE and the four purposes

At the heart of the Curriculum for Wales are the **four purposes**, which are the key drivers for curriculum design and, as such, should be the focus of all curriculum development. The four purposes set out the aspirations for all learners.

By the age of 16, they should be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

In the Humanities Area, the statements of what matters contribute to realising the four purposes of the curriculum.

Mandatory RVE makes an important and distinctive contribution to supporting the four purposes by giving learners opportunities to:

- engage with and explore ultimate and philosophical questions about the meaning, significance and purpose of life, and about the nature of human thought and of the universe, and the connections between them

- undertake enquiries and engage with sources of wisdom and philosophies that encourage them to explore the challenges, opportunities and responses of human beings in the context of their cynefin, locally, in Wales and the wider world, as well as support them in evaluating their own perspectives and those of others
- develop and express their own informed viewpoints, which prepares them for lifelong learning in a pluralistic and diverse world
- use their knowledge and understanding of both institutional and personal religious and non-religious beliefs and practices to think critically about their own values and about how they might make important social and personal decisions
- explore the ways in which religion and non-religious philosophical convictions have influenced human experience throughout history, so that they can make sense of their place in the world, imagine possible futures and create responsible solutions that take in to account the diverse needs and rights of all people
- evaluate and use evidence from a range of religious and non-religious sources to engage with ethical and moral issues, past and contemporary, that challenge their knowledge and values. This enables learners to develop an understanding of religion and belief, culture, community, their cynefin, Wales and the wider world now and in the past, which can help to nurture a sense of place and belonging
- respond sensitively to religion and non-religious philosophical convictions and explore the beliefs and practices of people in their community, Wales and the wider world, and how these might impact their actions and choices
- develop secure values and establish their ethical beliefs and spirituality through the exploration of religion and non-religious philosophical convictions on a range of issues, which can in turn enable them to form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect
- discuss and reflect on their own perspectives and those of others on a range of issues, which help them to build their mental, emotional and spiritual well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy

9 RVE and the statements of what matters

Before any detailed planning can begin, it is essential for practitioners and school leaders to consider the Humanities statements of what matters, which contribute to learners realising the four purposes of the curriculum.

Practitioners and leaders should also consider the statements of what matters in other Areas where RVE may be able to contribute to learning.

10 RVE concepts

The **statements of what matters in this Area** allow learners to explore and critically engage with a broad range of religious and non-religious concepts, which should be carefully considered and underpin curriculum design.

When considering RVE concepts within their curriculum, schools and settings should:

- develop an understanding of the discipline and its value

- provide rich contexts for learners to be curious, to explore ultimate questions and to search for an understanding of the human condition, as well as providing opportunities for learners to reflect and to experience awe and wonder, in a range of meaningful real-world contexts
- develop rich contexts for enquiry into the concepts of religion, lived religion, worldviews, secularity, spirituality, life stance, identity and culture to develop learners' well-rounded understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs and practices
- provide rich contexts for engaging with concepts of belief, faith, truth, purpose, meaning, knowledge, sources of authority, self, origin, life, death and ultimate reality, which can enable learners to develop an understanding of personal and institutional beliefs about the nature of life and the world around them
- develop rich contexts for exploring the concepts of identity, belonging, relationships, community, cynefin, diversity, pluralism and interconnectedness, which can enable learners to gain a sense of self and develop spirituality
- explore the concepts of equality, sustainability, tolerance, freedom, prejudice, discrimination, extremism, good and evil, which can give learners an insight into the challenges and opportunities that face societies
- reflect the concepts and contexts of religiosity, practice, ritual, tradition, worship, sacredness, symbolism and celebration to develop learners' understanding of religion and belief
- provide rich contexts for exploring the concepts of ethics, morality, justice, responsibilities, authority, humanity, rights, values and social action

11 The RVE lens

The RVE disciplinary lens can help schools and settings consider relevant content for their curriculum design. In this syllabus the RVE lens is divided into a number of sub lenses through which the RVE concepts can be viewed and explored. The sub lenses are interconnected and are not intended to be units or topics. They draw on a recognised body of knowledge for RVE in Wales and help to ensure sufficient breadth and depth for RVE in the Humanities. The sub lenses lend themselves to all of the statements of what matters and are also relevant to other Areas and to the realisation of the four purposes. They help schools and settings understand significant aspects of RVE and identify opportunities for RVE within the statements of what matters to support curriculum development.

Sub lenses in RVE include:

- Search for meaning and purpose

How people respond to the deeper questions of life in order to understand the human condition.

- The natural world and living things

How and why people show concern and responsibility for the world and experience awe and wonder in nature.

- Identity and belonging

What makes us who we are as people, communities and citizens living in a diverse world.

- Authority and influence

How and why different types of authority influence people's lives.

- Relationships and responsibility

How people live together and why developing healthy relationships is important.

- Values and ethics

How and why people make moral choices and how this influences their actions.

- The journey of life

What people experience as part of the journey of life and how these experiences are acknowledged.

12 Learner progression and learning journeys in RVE

Learner progression is an important driver for designing your curriculum. This is reflected in the statements of what matters and in the **descriptions of learning for the Humanities**, which help to provide more detailed guidance for practitioners.

In order to develop a shared understanding of progression from ages 3 to 16 in relation to RVE within this Area, an example 'learning journey' for each sub lens is provided. These learning journeys illustrate how a learner may develop their understanding of concepts in RVE through the various interconnected sub lenses, and may be useful when designing your curriculum, alongside the descriptions of learning for the Humanities. They have taken account of the descriptions of learning and encourage schools and settings to be creative and confident when planning for learner progression in RVE within their curriculum design. The learning journeys do not provide an alternative set of descriptions of learning, nor do they provide specific reference points or criteria for the pace of progression, and should not be used as such. All of the statements of what matters in this Area are reflected across the learning journeys.

- Example learning journey 1: search for meaning and purpose

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: 'Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways' and 'Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens.

The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about the 'deeper questions of life'. At the early stages of learning, learners begin to ask deeper questions about themselves and others, and about the natural world and living things around them (for example, 'Who am I?' and 'Why do things die?'), as well as listening to the opinions of others. Further along their journey, they gather and discuss religious and non-religious insights and consider their own and others' opinions, viewpoints and interpretations with increasing sophistication. Later, issues of truth, meaning, purpose and value can be shared, debated and evaluated as learners engage more deeply with a range of challenging questions on these issues (for example the existence of good and evil, the nature of suffering, the use of wealth). They can recognise that responses to such questions are complex, as well as often partial and inconclusive.

This journey is also about 'influence, continuity and change'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to know and express what they like and dislike, what makes them happy and sad, and what their hopes and dreams are for the future, as well as responding to the ideas of others. Further along their journey, they can identify and discuss religious and non-religious insights concerning human feelings and needs, including what influences these and how they are expressed in their own and other people's lives. Later, learners can come to recognise both continuity and change in responses to questions about meaning and purpose in life, both in their own lives and in society and culture, across time and place. They evaluate relevant contemporary values and ideas of self-worth from religious and non-religious perspectives.

This journey is also about 'human quests and contributions'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to show an awareness of the people and the 'big ideas' that have shaped their local places and everyday lives. Further along their journey, they imagine and discuss what they may contribute both now and in the future, and increasingly engage with the relationship between aspiration and practice, while considering a variety of contributions from religious and non-religious sources. Later, as learners' understanding develops, they can make increasingly complex connections between aspects of health and well-being, the needs and demands of the world today and their own search for meaning and purpose.

- Example learning journey 2: the natural world and living things

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: 'Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions' and 'Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens.

The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about 'care, concern and respect'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to show care and respect for the natural world and living things around them. Further along their journey, they can identify how and why they and others show care, concern and respect, as well as considering religious and non-religious perspectives. Later, with increasing sophistication, learners can come to raise, and consider critically, ethical questions related to human activity, nature and place; engaging with religious, non-religious responses and their own responses.

This journey is also about 'awe and wonder'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to experience awe and wonder in nature, which develops as they explore the world around them, observing and asking questions. Further along their journey, a sense of the complexity of life and its interconnectedness grows, as well as a sense of active responsibility. Later, experiences of awe and wonder are nuanced by deeper and more wide-ranging engagement with others and with place, as well as with the natural world and living things.

This journey is also about 'responsibility and action'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to show an awareness of the variety of living things beyond themselves, and that their actions can impact these. Further along their journey, they can come to know religious and non-religious 'stories' about local places, the natural world and living things, and how these relate to themselves and others. Through religious and non-religious narratives (for example, about the origins of the world), learners can learn about different philosophies important to our understanding of the world and the place of humans within it. Later, with increasing sophistication, they become able to recognise how values and beliefs are reflected in action, from religious and non-religious perspectives, and how these relate to their own experiences.

This journey is also about 'place and space'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to recognise that they are located in place and space, and this has meaning for them. Further along their journey, they recognise that places and spaces around them mean different things to different people, as well as considering places of special significance for religious and non-religious reasons. Later, learners can come to identify and explain various contested places (religious and non-religious), appreciating sensitivities surrounding place. They can understand the complexity of debates and of influences such as identity, authority, values, ethics and considerations of meaning and purpose in life.

- Example learning journey 3: values and ethics

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: 'Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways' and 'Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens.

The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about 'what people value'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to identify what is of value to them (for example, fairness, trust, love, life and kindness) and they listen to the opinions of others. They can recognise the need to respect others and can show what this looks like in their everyday lives. Further along their journey, learners become aware of different interpretations and expressions of common values, appreciating a variety of religious and non-religious influences. They learn how some values and rights have changed over time. As their knowledge and experience grows, learners can come to discuss a variety of religious and non-religious perspectives on instances of inequality and injustice, as well as the challenges of identifying and protecting human rights. Later they are increasingly able to form, defend and review their ethical positions on matters of religious and non-religious significance (for example, the sanctity of life, freedom of speech, animal welfare and war).

This journey is also about 'beliefs, actions and consequences'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to show an understanding of 'right' and 'wrong' and how their actions and feelings relate to this. Further along their journey, with increasing breadth and sophistication they can explain how their actions may have consequences for themselves and others, and for the world and living things, drawing on insights from a variety of religions and non-religious philosophical convictions. Later, they can come to postulate and evaluate the factors that influence their attitudes, behaviours and actions, and those of others, including factors relating to religious and non-religious belief and practice.

This journey is also about 'decision-making'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to recognise basic moral dilemmas and offer solutions. Further along their journey, they can learn rules and codes of behaviour (both religious and non-religious) relevant to them and to others around them, and they can explain their impact on people's lives. Later, with increasing sophistication, learners can come to identify and critically discuss the responsibilities and challenges of decision-making, showing understanding of relevant figures, processes and institutions that form part of decision-making, in both religious and non-religious contexts. Learners identify opportunities where appropriate moral action is needed in their communities, Wales and the wider world.

- Example learning journey 4: identity and belonging

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: 'Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways' and 'Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens. The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about 'what makes people who they are'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to show an awareness of who they are and that they are similar to and different from others. Further along their learning journey, they discuss what can form identity (for example, relationships, lifestyles, beliefs and

place) and how these influence people and their communities. Later, learners can review and evaluate a range of religious and non-religious philosophies, life stances and practices concerned with what it means to be human, and they can form and critically consider their own perspectives.

This journey is also about 'communities, contributions and diversity'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to understand that they are part of various groups and communities and what belonging looks like. They are aware of diversity within relevant communities and that their experiences of belonging are similar to and different from others. Further along their learning journey, they can explore expressions of belonging in a range of religious and non-religious contexts. They can discuss the significance of belonging in people's lives, including their own. Later, with increasing sophistication, learners can come to identify and evaluate relationships between belonging, commitment and contributions to society, culture and well-being.

This journey is also about 'place, time and relationships'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to be aware that they exist in place and time, and that this shapes them and the communities around them. Further along their learning journey, they can explore interactions between a range of communities and societies, locally and more widely, and they can discuss the contributions of identity and belonging from religious and non-religious perspectives. They can come to recognise continuity and change in identity and belonging, and how these are experienced personally and collectively. Later, learners can investigate and evaluate relationships and interdependencies between a range of groups, communities and societies (locally, nationally and globally) and how these impact on human life and the natural world. They can critically consider the roles of identity and belonging in understanding and responding to shared contemporary issues, from religious and non-religious perspectives.

- Example learning journey 5: authority and influence

This learning journey draws mainly from three statements of what matters: 'Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different way', 'Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs', and 'Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens. The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about 'authorities and influences'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to recognise that they are influenced by some important people and that this affects how they feel, think and behave. Further along their learning journey, they can identify and explore different sources of authority within religious and non-religious contexts (for example, leaders, relationships, texts, codes of behaviour and traditions). They can come to understand that sources of authority influence people's lives in a variety of ways. Later, as learners' understanding develops, they can analyse and evaluate complex relationships (including their own)

that exist between and across sources of authority. They can come to critically consider the authority of religious and spiritual experience and conscience, in the past and present, and their impact on people, society and culture.

This journey is also about 'experiences and interpretations'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to be aware of important influences in the lives of others, and that their experiences are similar to and different from their own. Further along their learning journey, they can explore how sources of authority are interpreted in different ways by various people and groups, within religious and non-religious contexts. They can come to recognise influences on interpretations and that some sources of authority carry more weight than others for different people, groups and societies. Later, learners can draw on multiple sources of authority to evaluate religious and non-religious interpretations of issues relevant to the human condition, and they can present their own informed positions. They can critically consider how and why experiences and concepts of authority may change over time.

This journey is also about 'choices and actions'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to understand that their actions can be affected by choices. They can show awareness of influences on their choices. Further along their learning journey, they can come to recognise how people and communities draw on religious and non-religious sources of authority to guide them in their lives and to inform important decisions. Later, as learners' understanding develops, they are able to use their knowledge and understanding of a range of sources of authority to engage critically in contemporary ethical issues or debates, and to influence possible actions and outcomes (for example, challenge, consensus and reconciliation).

- Example learning journey 6: relationships and responsibility

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: 'Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions' and 'Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs'. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens.

The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about 'how people live together'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to understand that they live in a number of relationships. They are aware of what helps them to live with others. They can offer opinions about how disagreements can be resolved. Further along their learning journey, they can identify and discuss how the importance of relationships (personal, social, environmental and transcendental) is expressed in people's lives, drawing on religious and non-religious contexts. Later, learners can come to recognise that relationships are dynamic and complex. They can critically consider influences that can contribute to harmony and discord globally, locally and personally (including religious and non-religious influences). They can review and evaluate challenges presented by relationships, drawing on a range of religious and non-religious insights and experiences.

This journey is also about ‘responsibilities and interconnectedness’. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to be aware of connections between their own lives and the lives of other people, the natural world and living things. They can show responsibility for others through simple actions. Further along their learning journey, they can identify how and why people show responsibility for people and places outside their personal relationships. They can discuss important material and non-material dimensions of relationships (including spiritual, religious and moral dimensions), and they can come to recognise connections with human growth and how people can live together responsibly in the world. Later, learners can come to develop critical appreciation of significant issues affecting relationships at a global level and they can imagine possible futures. They can critically engage with a range of religious and non-religious philosophies exploring interconnectedness in life, as well as the nature and understanding of human beings within it.

This journey is also about ‘well-being, identity and inclusion’. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to be aware of their own experiences and feelings when they engage in activities with others. They can recognise that other people have experiences and feelings, too, which are similar to and different from their own. They show curiosity about other people’s lives. Further along their learning journey, they can explore how action can involve significant commitment and sacrifice (past and present) and have major effects on the lives and well-being of others and on the wider world. They can come to recognise connections between actions and identity, including religious and non-religious influences. They can identify unfairness and inequality in their own personal lives and in wider society and suggest appropriate challenges. Later, learners can critically consider what healthy relationships look like and their contributions to well-being, drawing on a range of religious and non-religious perspectives. They can come to understand and evaluate relationships between personal identity and relevant group identity.

- Example learning journey 7: the journey of life

This learning journey draws mainly from two statements of what matters: ‘Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways’ and ‘Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs’. There are connections with other statements of what matters and with other Areas that can also be explored through this sub lens. The descriptions of learning will help to provide more detailed guidance on progression.

This journey is about ‘meaning, purpose and influence’. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to recognise that people have personal life stories. Learners start to tell their own life story. Further along their learning journey, they can explore a variety of paths through life that people have experienced, drawing on religious and non-religious contexts and influences. They can come to identify connections with meaning-making and purpose. Later, learners can analyse and critically consider the concept of vocation, in the past and present, from religious and non-religious perspectives. They can examine challenges encountered in people’s life trajectories and evaluate religious and non-religious responses.

This journey is also about 'life stages and events'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to be aware that they grow and change over time. They experience and compare how their own and other people's growth is acknowledged and celebrated. They can show how their lives are connected to special times and seasons. Further along their learning journey, they can explore significant life events and rites of passage, and they can discuss the roles that these play in people's lives by drawing on religious and non-religious insights. Later, learners can analyse and critically discuss human ritual action in the marking of significant events and time. They can come to evaluate relevant philosophies of time from religious and non-religious perspectives and demonstrate how these may impact beliefs, practices and actions.

This journey is also about 'physical and spiritual journeying'. At the early stages of their learning journey, learners begin to recognise that they go on many different journeys for various reasons. They show interest in the journeys of other people and can see how their journeys are similar to and different from their own experiences. They are aware that journeys have physical features as well as non-material features. Further along their learning journey, they can explore people's experiences of important journeys from religious and non-religious perspectives, and they can identify reasons for these journeys. They can come to understand that journeys are connected to place and time. They can imagine what an important journey might look like in their own lives. Later, learners can identify and evaluate relationships between physical and spiritual journeys and their effects on the lives of individuals, communities and wider society (for example, in relation to identity, human formation, diversity, culture). They can critically consider the interconnectedness of journeys, landscapes and people across place and time, drawing on religious and non-religious contexts.

13 Enriching learner experience in RVE

Whichever approach is taken to curriculum development, schools and settings need to ensure rich learning in RVE across a broad range of experiences. Learning experiences are a central aspect of the philosophy of the [Curriculum for Wales framework](#). When designing their curriculum schools and settings should ensure that a developmentally appropriate range of experiences relevant to RVE is provided for learners. These experiences can include opportunities to:

- engage with religious and non-religious local communities in ways that learners will find meaningful and valuable
- engage in role play and participate in, or observe, activities such as celebrations or re-enactments
- consider what influences people in their response to ethical dilemmas, solve real and present problems, and explore past events
- experience and reflect on the mystery, awe and wonder of the natural world, historical locations and religious and cultural sites
- observe and participate in cultural activities that help learners to understand human experiences
- handle and explore religious artefacts and objects, including sacred and other texts

- visit local places of worship and other special places, landscapes and environments, including those with a significant religious and spiritual dimension
- meet people for whom faith and belief is important to help learners explore lived experiences
- ask big questions relating to higher powers or ultimate reality, the world, the meaning and purpose of life and of their own experiences
- engage with religious and non-religious sources, for example religious leaders, people of faith and belief, philosophers, places of worship, artefacts, sacred texts and philosophical writings
- learn to respond to the beliefs and convictions of others whilst exploring and analysing their own views and values

Enriching learner experience in RVE is also about schools and settings exploring their place within the local and wider community as an important step in designing their curriculum. This can be supported by schools and settings researching the faith and belief groups that are represented locally and across Wales, as well as sacred places and spaces, past and present.

14 Key links with other Areas

Curriculum development in schools and settings should explore clear links and interdependencies between RVE and the other Areas as part of a **holistic curriculum**. These links and interdependencies should be drawn upon during curriculum planning, with practitioners working creatively and collaboratively to support learners' realisation of the four purposes of the curriculum.

15 Points to consider for schools and settings

The following questions can be used by schools and settings when designing their curriculum for RVE.

- 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?

16 Ensuring inclusivity in RVE

All learners with additional learning needs (ALN) should be supported to overcome barriers to learning and achieve their full potential in RVE. Schools and settings providing education for learners with ALN, including those with profound and multiple learning difficulties, should consider how best to meet the needs of all learners when planning and providing effective learning opportunities in RVE.

Considerations may include, for example:

- active, multi-sensory approaches to introduce new learning in RVE, taking account of the different learning styles and emotional needs of each learner
- inclusive opportunities for learners to experience awe and wonder in a variety of environments
- using a variety of stimuli, such as religious and non-religious artefacts and relevant contexts
- full participation of all learners including those who use a means of communication other than speech
- activities that include all learners both inside and outside the classroom, for example, when visiting local places of worship and other special places of significance.
-

When working with learners with additional learning needs, practitioners and carers should be aware of the school or setting's approach to RVE within the Humanities Area.

For further information on ALN refer to guidance on [Routes for Learning](#) and the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021.

17 Education in funded non-maintained nursery settings

RVE provision in a funded non-maintained nursery setting should be considered as part of an overarching holistic approach to learning and development. The 'Designing your curriculum for RVE' section above provides further information on RVE for ages 3 to 16, to support practitioners in these settings with this holistic approach.

Young learners are endlessly curious; they enjoy exploring and investigating by themselves and with others, and naturally ask questions about life and the world around them. Through engaging, practical, integrated activities in this period of learning, they can begin to learn more about themselves, other people and the wider world.

Effective, learner-centred pedagogy, which is responsive, dynamic and embedded in strong relationships, should be central to the development of RVE provision in a

setting. Through play, learners are able to develop their ideas, opinions and feelings with imagination, creativity and sensitivity, which can help inform their view of the world. Spending time outdoors supports learners' social, emotional, spiritual and physical development, as well as their well-being. Being outdoors also helps them to develop an awareness of the need to show care and respect for living things. Learners in this period of learning are beginning to understand the concept of 'difference'. Practitioners should encourage them to share their knowledge and experiences of their own beliefs, heritage and traditions, as well as those of others (for example, through songs, stories and role play). This can help young learners understand more about themselves, as well as about experiences and viewpoints which may differ from their own.

A supportive, nurturing environment, where learners can learn about each other's differences and similarities, can help them to begin to develop respectful relationships and a sense of responsibility. They can begin to explore the language of rights and start to understand their right to believe different things and follow different beliefs. Through this, learners from an early age can begin to identify and understand how their actions may affect others, and learn to reflect on and revise their own perspectives, as appropriate.

18 Education other than at school

All learners have a right to an education. When considering how best to meet the needs of their learners, providers of education other than at school (EOTAS), including pupil referral units (PRUs), are required to have regard to the mandatory curriculum components, which include RVE, and secure provision in relation to them so far as that would be reasonably possible and appropriate for the individual learner.

Learners' experiences should enable them to explore RVE concepts through the statements of what matters in the Humanities Area, using various sub lenses in RVE which are provided in this Agreed Syllabus . Such settings are not required to deliver the agreed syllabus. However, the RVE provided in these settings must still satisfy the pluralistic requirement.

More information on the legislative requirements for PRUs and EOTAS can be found in the [legislation section](#) of the Curriculum for Wales Framework.

Appendix A: Religion, Values and Ethics Post 16

The [legal summary](#) provides further guidance on aspects pertinent to the RVE Agreed Syllabus including provision for Post 16 learners. The legal summary states:

While the Curriculum for Wales Framework relates to learners aged 3 to 16, this guidance is included here for completeness.

In accordance with section 61 of the Curriculum and Assessment (2021) Wales Act all learners over the age of 16 can opt into RVE. If a learner chooses to opt into RVE then the school or college must provide RVE which is objective, critical and pluralistic. This approach is consistent with the principle that learners of sufficient maturity should be able to make decisions that relate to their own learning.

Where a learner requests RVE pursuant to section 61 of the Act the RVE must be designed so that it:

- reflects 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
- also reflects the fact that a range of non-religious philosophical convictions are held in Wales

Section 61 of the Act does not prevent a school from imposing a requirement that all learners in its sixth form undertake compulsory RVE classes; nor does it prevent a school that adopts this approach from providing compulsory sixth form RVE that accords with the school's trust deeds, or the tenets of its religion, or religious denomination ("denominational RVE"). The content of such denominational RVE remains a matter for the school.

Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)		
Date of Meeting:		24 th June 2022
Agenda Item:	6	Report Details
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u></p> <p>WG have commissioned professional learning material for schools relating to RVE and the new curriculum.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u></p> <p>Update about the WG/WASACRE HwB playlists on RVE Training related to the Agreed Syllabus conference</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Recommendations:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To receive the report 		

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<p>Denbighshire County Council Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>		
Date of Meeting:		24 th June 2022
Agenda Item:	7	Report Details
<u><i>Background to the Report:</i></u>		
<p>SACRE continues to be a member of the Wales Association of SACREs, and receives reports on meetings from members attending, copies of minutes of meetings and any other reports from the Association.</p>		
<u><i>Purpose of the Report:</i></u>		
<p>For members to be informed as to the focus and main outcomes of the previous meeting.</p>		
<u><i>Recommendations:</i></u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To receive the minutes of the last meeting of the Association – Online. ▪ To agree attendance to the next WASACRE Online - Date TBC. 		

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