

Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics



Foreword

Cardiff is a good place for many of its children and young people to grow up, with a fast-improving school system alongside the advantages that a capital city can bring. However, Covid-19 has further exacerbated existing inequalities, with the daily lives of all children and young people disrupted by the pandemic – particularly the most vulnerable children. As the city emerges from the Covid-19 crisis, the Council is committed to a child friendly recovery; understanding the lived experience of children and putting their voice, needs and rights at the heart of what we do. A key part of this agenda is to ensure the well-being of all children, particularly the most vulnerable children, young people and families whilst securing the best possible outcomes.

Continuing to deliver the goals and commitments outlined in the ambitious Cardiff 2030 vision will continue to be a priority, including National reforms in Additional Learning Needs and Curriculum.

As a part of this goal and commitment, Cardiff Council convened an Agreed Syllabus Conferences, in 2022, to devise the new locally determined Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) to fit the Curriculum for Wales Act 2021. With the four purposes as a shared vision and aspiration for every child and young person, we recognise that RVE is one of the four statutory requirements of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. It is integral to the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE), as well as providing a unique and distinct contribution to the Curriculum for Wales.

All schools and settings within the Cardiff area must have ‘regard to’ this locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing and implementing their curriculum and RVE must be clearly evidenced through school’s curriculum design and planning processes. The Cardiff Agreed Syllabus Conferences brought a working party of teachers, representatives from faith and non-religious groups, local authority officers and experts in the field of RVE to create the new locally RVE Agreed syllabus. This Agreed Syllabus will support schools across the Cardiff area to plan and deliver engaging and effective RVE. The ASC and working party ensured that the vision of the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, as well as the principles of curriculum design, were central to the locally Agreed Syllabus. It is recognised that as an integral part of the Curriculum for Wales, RVE can offer a distinctive contribution to the realisation of the four purposes for all learners through a curriculum which provides extensive experiences, depth and breadth of challenge, gives real life context for learning and is localised to meet the needs of all learners within individual or cluster settings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the creation of this document and to those who will subsequently provide support in the development of engaging RVE for all of our learners within the Cardiff schools and settings.

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

Audience

The Cardiff Religion, Values and Ethics Agreed Syllabus has been written to be accessible to all those responsible for designing and delivering the RVE 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)
- the Cardiff 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 RVE.

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 the mandatory element of Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in line with the Curriculum for Wales, for all Cardiff schools and settings maintained by the local authority. This document has been adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for RVE in Cardiff, in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

Cardiff Local Authority has adopted this document as the Agreed Syllabus for RVE in July 2022, following a formal recommendation to the local authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 29th June 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 Cardiff are required to **‘have regard’** to the Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing their curriculum. The Local Authority has a duty to review the Agreed Syllabus every five years and has determined to review the Agreed Syllabus before this five year cycle to continue to support practitioners as updated qualifications are published.

The Cardiff Agreed Syllabus recognises that the approach of the Curriculum for Wales Framework is based on the principle of **subsidiarity** and, as such, the Cardiff Agreed Syllabus recognises and reflects the autonomy of each school and setting in realising its own curriculum. The Agreed Syllabus is not intended to be a scheme of work. It provides a framework within which each school can best

design its own curriculum which includes RVE within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience.

Implementation

This Cardiff Agreed Syllabus will be effective from **September 2022**, for Religion, Values and Ethics in respect of all learners, up to and including year 6. In respect of 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 Cardiff Agreed Syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Cardiff Agreed Syllabus. From September 2023, this new Agreed Syllabus, in respect of years 7 and 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 Cardiff 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’](#).

Vision for Cardiff Religion, Values and Ethics

All children and young people in Cardiff to experience high quality RVE education and develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that enable them to become personally successful, with the skills for lifelong learning and globally engaged citizens, in line with the vision of the Cardiff 2030 child friendly city. The [four purposes](#) are the shared vision and aspiration for every child and young person within the Curriculum for Wales Act 2021.

In fulfilling these, we set high expectations for all, promote individual well-being, tackle ignorance and misinformation, and encourage critical and civic engagement. A school’s RVE curriculum is everything a learner experiences in pursuit of the four purposes. It is not simply what RVE we teach, but how we teach it, and crucially, why we teach it.

Cardiff schools and settings have this new opportunity to re-engage with rich Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) for all learners. RVE undoubtedly offers:

- a unique and vital element in the education of all learners;
- a chance to encourage all learners to know and understand their communities and the world around them;
- the means to develop an understanding of religious and non-religious philosophical convictions within a pluralistic society;
- the opportunity to become informed and respectful instigators of social change and justice.

Values Cardiff ASC are committed to:

- As a Child-Friendly City, Cardiff values, and seeks to embed, the rights of children, as shown in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. This includes articles 13 and 14.
 - **Article 13. Sharing thoughts freely:** *Children have the right to share freely with others what they learn, think and feel, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms other people.*
 - **Article 14. Freedom of thought and religion:** *Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.*
- Respecting the rights of all children and young people and actively listening to them and involving them in their RVE curriculum.
- The development of happy, well informed and resilient learners, through a focus on RVE academic achievement, personal well-being and progression beyond school.
- Equality of opportunity, championing and celebrating the success and life chances of all children and young people, through all learners studying RVE.
- Raising the aspirations of all children and young people and our expectations of what they can achieve, irrespective of their background.
- Embracing and celebrating the religious and non-religious diversity of the city.
- Respecting and protecting our natural environment for the children and young people of today and for generations to come.
- Openness and collaboration in learning about and sharing diverse beliefs and practices.

The legal requirement for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE)

Cardiff Local Authority welcomes the fact 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.” Guidance for 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 Guidance 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 guidance on RVE is **statutory**:

“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, Hwb

The Cardiff Agreed Syllabus follows the Religion, Values and Ethics statutory Guidance on Hwb and forms the basis of this Cardiff 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

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- 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

Cardiff schools and settings are reminded that in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 this Cardiff 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

Schools and settings developed RVE curricular in Cardiff should 'pay regard to' and reflect the diverse and pluralistic nature of religious and non-religious beliefs that are present in the community of Cardiff.

Cardiff schools and settings are also reminded of the following legislative changes which will have a significant impact on schools:

- Maintained schools with nursery age children and funded non-maintained nursery settings must provide RVE for all their learners from age 3 from September 2022.
- Post 16 RVE in maintained schools is optional for sixth formers from September 2027.
- There is **no** parental right to withdraw their children from the academic subject of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales. In the Curriculum for Wales RVE is a statutory requirement for all learners from age 3 to 16. The timetable for these changes is as follows:
 - Primary aged pupils – September 2022
 - Year 7 learners – September 2022 OR September 2023, depending upon when the school/setting rolls out their Curriculum for Wales
 - Year 8 learners – September 2023
 - Year 9 learners – September 2024

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- 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 RVE.

Designing your Religion, Values and Ethics Curriculum

Schools are advised to use the most up-to-date information on Hwb to support their curriculum design.

Each school and setting will need to decide how RVE best works within their approach to the Humanities Area. For example, RVE curriculum design can be integrated, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary or as a discrete discipline. Curriculum design should be evaluated regularly in line with the Curriculum for Wales Framework. All schools and settings must 'have regard' to this locally Agreed Syllabus for RVE when designing their curriculum.

The area on the Humanities Area of Learning Experience (AoLE) is also crucial for designing a RVE curricular.

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 practitioners will also find useful:

- Cross-curricular skills and integral skills
- Specific considerations for this Area
- Key links with other Areas
- Cross-cutting themes

There are other areas of the Curriculum for Wales, RVE Summary Legislation and RVE Guidance that will advise and guide schools and settings. Here are some of those areas that can be found in the RVE Guidance:

- 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

RVE and Prevent within the Cardiff Region

Prevent is a whole-school safeguarding responsibility; however, Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) plays a pivotal role in building resilience and awareness among learners to help keep them safe from the risks of radicalisation and extremism due to the nature of RVE and therefore addressing some of the primary Prevent objectives. Cardiff is a Home Office Prevent priority area, therefore Cardiff schools and settings should consider how an RVE curriculum can support the safeguarding of learners from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

See the supporting materials document for the Cardiff Agreed Syllabus for RVE for more detail, guidance, and contact details of the local Prevent team to aid in curriculum development.

Additional Supporting Materials for Cardiff Schools and Settings

Cardiff County Council Local Authority and the Cardiff 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 local authority and Cardiff 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: SACRE@cardiff.gov.uk

<p>The function of the Standing Advisory Council on RVE is to advise the local authority on such matters connected with the provision of teaching and learning, under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, either in respect of the mandatory element of RVE, or the post-compulsory education in maintained schools of optional RVE. In addition, the SAC may advise on any other matter the LA may refer to it, or as the SAC may see fit.</p>

Further guidance and enquiries about this document should be directed to:

SACRE@cardiff.gov.uk