

Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



Bridgend County Borough Council

Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics

Foreword from the Corporate Director of Education and Family Support

In September 2022, we will see great change within our education system, with the introduction of Curriculum for Wales. Since Professor Graham Donaldson introduced his vision with the publication of 'Successful Futures', all educational establishments within Wales have been working hard to ensure that they are prepared for the introduction of the new curriculum. A major aspect of this preparation has been for schools to create a curriculum that is specific to their setting or cluster, that will meet the needs of all their learners. To support schools with this process, guidance has been produced across the different Area of Learning Experiences (AoLEs). In the early part of 2022, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference to devise the new locally determined Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) to fit the Curriculum for Wales Act 2021.

It is important to recognise the integral nature of RVE within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE), while still valuing the unique and distinct contribution that RVE makes to the Curriculum for Wales. This area incorporates geography; history; religion, values and ethics, and business studies. These disciplines share many common themes, concepts and transferable skills, and at the same time have their own discrete body of knowledge and skills required for a rounded curriculum.

Curriculum for Wales encompasses entrepreneurial, risk-taking and communication skills. It encourages learners to collaborate, solve problems, and enables creativity and flexibility. All of these aspects were displayed when creating the Agreed Syllabus for Bridgend and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the production of this document. The Agreed Syllabus Conference brought together a working party of teachers, representatives from faith and non-religious groups, local authority officers, experts in the field of RVE and other professionals to create a document that is current, fluid and flexible, that will support schools in Bridgend with delivering RVE. Local members of religious and non-religious communities, along with practitioners from the area, will continue to co-construct enriching and supportive supporting materials as the Curriculum for Wales rolls out across Bridgend, sharing their journeys and discoveries.

It is important for all stakeholders to realise that all schools and settings must 'have regard' to this locally agreed syllabus for RVE when designing their curriculum for their own learning organisation.

This is an exciting time for RVE to establish its place and impact on all learners within Bridgend, and I look forward to seeing the implementation in schools across the local authority.

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)

Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Bridgend County Borough Council

Preface from the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

It has been a great privilege for me to chair the Bridgend Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). It has also been an exciting time as we look forward to the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales in September 2022. This has been long anticipated ever since Professor Graham Donaldson introduced his review of the curriculum Successful Futures. In that review Donaldson makes it clear that the purpose of the curriculum in Wales should be that children and young people should, amongst other things be “ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world” – one of the four purposes that Donaldson sets out for a curriculum. He also makes it clear that “all teaching and learning should be directed to achieving the four curriculum purposes”. That is the intention of this Agreed Syllabus - to do enable our schools to do just that.

The principle by which Donaldson’s curriculum works is “subsidiarity”; the local school designing its own curriculum to suits its own particular needs whilst conforming to the basic principles as laid out in the “Curriculum for Wales” This syllabus is therefore not so much a scheme of work, as other agreed syllabi have been in the past, but rather a helpful guide to allow and support schools in the Bridgend local authority to develop a curriculum relevant for their learners.

I have been greatly impressed by the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm of teachers and other professionals who have been involved in the writing of this document. Likewise the enthusiasm and support shown by representatives of faith and non-religious groups and of elected members who have constituted the ASC has been much appreciated. In the writing of this document the Bridgend ASC has been greatly supported by the professional advisor from the Central South Consortium. Without her commitment to this work it would have been a much more difficult task for the ASC to have devised and written this document. The ASC has also been supported by officers of the local education authority and for that support the ASC is immensely grateful.

This syllabus is hopefully a “work in progress” and as curriculums are developed and rolled out in our schools, it is hoped that we will be able to incorporate in various appendices examples of good practice and exemplars which will continue to help drive forward the teaching of Religion Value and Ethics in our schools. There are challenging, but exciting times ahead for this subject which sits within the Humanities Area of Learning. We know our teachers and others will rise to that challenge. We thank them for their commitment to ensuring that our children do become those “ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world” of which Donaldson writes and we hope that this syllabus will support them in that.

Thank you.

The Revd Canon E J Evans, Chair, Bridgend Agreed Syllabus Conference

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

Audience

The Bridgend Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) 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)
- a local authority in Wales

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

Overview

Agreed syllabus

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

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

Bridgend County Borough Council has adopted this document as the agreed syllabus for RVE in May 2022, following a formal recommendation to the local authority by the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 11 May 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 Bridgend, in addition to the mandatory areas of the Curriculum for Wales, 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.

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

Implementation

This Bridgend agreed syllabus will be effective from 1 September 2022, for Religion, Values and Ethics for all pupils, up to and including Year 6. In respect of Year 7 pupils, 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 Bridgend agreed syllabus will supersede the current/legacy Bridgend agreed syllabus. From September 2023, this agreed syllabus will be effective for all learners, up to and including Year 8, as all schools and settings will have implemented the Curriculum for Wales for those pupils. Thereafter, the phased roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales will continue, and this Bridgend agreed syllabus will supersede the other:

- Year 9 pupils in September 2024
- Year 10 pupils in September 2025
- Year 11 pupils in September 2026

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

Further enquiries about this document should be directed to:

Clerk to Bridgend Standing Advisory Council (SAC): EDSU@bridgend.gov.uk

Or by visiting the [Bridgend County Council](#) website [[link to be added once document is live](#)]

Related documents

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

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

The Bridgend Agreed Syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics

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](#)

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

It is essential that Headteachers, senior leaders and governors understand the legal requirements of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales. These can be found in the [RVE 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**:

Mandatory

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

The Bridgend agreed syllabus follows the statutory Religion, Values and Ethics statutory guidance on Hwb and forms the basis of this Bridgend agreed syllabus and is to be read in conjunction with this document.

The statutory RVE guidance forms the basis of this Bridgend agreed syllabus for RVE and includes vital information for schools when designing their curriculum at a local level, including the following areas:

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

Bridgend schools and settings are to take note that in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 this Bridgend 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

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

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

Designing your RVE Curriculum

The starting point for any curriculum design is [Hwb](#). Any changes will also be made centrally on Hwb, so it is advised that you read and check information on the [Curriculum for Wales](#) regularly. The area on the [Humanities Area of Learning Experience \(Area\)](#) is also crucial for designing your RVE curriculum.

Here you will find the following areas:

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

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

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

Suggested points to consider for Bridgend schools and settings

It is advised that the following questions can be used when [designing your 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?

The 'Right to Withdraw' in the Curriculum for Wales

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

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 pupils – September 2022 or September 2023 (in line with the adoption of Curriculum for Wales in their school)
- Year 8 pupils – September 2023
- Year 9 pupils – September 2024
- Year 10 pupils – September 2025
- Year 11 pupils – September 2026

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

Note: 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.

Other considerations for the design and implementation of RVE

There are other areas of the Curriculum for Wales, RVE Summary Legislation and RVE Guidance for schools and settings to consider. Here are some of those areas and links:

[Religion, Values and Ethics Post-16](#)

[Enriching learner experience in Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

[Spiritual Development and Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

[Ensuring inclusivity in Religion, Values and Ethics](#)

[Religion, Values and Ethics in funded non-maintained Nursery settings](#)

[Religion, Values and Ethics for education other than at school](#)

Additional supporting materials for Bridgend schools and settings

Bridgend County Borough Council and the Bridgend 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 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: edsu@bridgend.gov.uk

Contact

For further guidance on the Bridgend County Borough Council agreed Syllabus and the RVE Curriculum, please contact: edsu@bridgend.gov.uk