

<p>Tues 03/05/22 16:47</p>	<p>Phone call: <a href="#">Request for consultation extension Mrs. Beverley Young</a>  Portskewett Community Council: <a href="mailto:clerkatportskewettcc@outlook.com">clerkatportskewettcc@outlook.com</a></p>
<p>Wed 04/05/22 09:01</p>	<p>Good morning.  In view of the impending election tomorrow I doubt whether there will be any meaningful scrutiny of this as new councillors won't even have their computers until the 10th May.  May I suggest a reasonable extension of time .  Regards  Paul Jordan..</p>
<p>Wed 04/05/22 10:10</p>	<p>Kathy Riddick <a href="mailto:kathy.riddick@humanism.org.uk">kathy.riddick@humanism.org.uk</a></p> <p>Dear Wendy,  I am concerned about how this draft agreed syllabus treats the definition of non-religious philosophical convictions. Unlike most ASCs in Wales, Monmouthshire did not include representation from any non-religious beliefs in their ASC or SACRE so did not have the benefit of their views. The interpretation of the legislation is wrong in this document as it fails to address non-religious beliefs.</p> <p>This agreed syllabus is attempting to define non religious philosophical convictions as any belief that can be held by a 'persons of all faiths and none'. This is simply not true as it ignores the non-religious wording in the legislation and completely wipes out non-religious beliefs ( as these cannot be held by a person of faith). The choice of words are carefully considered in legislation, and the inclusion of 'non-religious' must be interpreted as philosophical convictions which come from a non-religious belief perspective rather than convictions which can exist inside and outside of ontological beliefs.</p> <p>The Monmouthshire choice of (incorrect) definition for non-religious philosophical convictions is out of step with SACs across Wales, and with the Welsh Government guidance. Perhaps inclusion of a humanist on your SAC and ASC in future would help to avoid these errors?</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Kathy</p>

<p>Wed 04/05/22 09:46</p>	<p>Hi Wendy</p> <p>The next Ordinary Meeting of Town Council is scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Please let me know if you would like me to add this item to the agenda as I note the deadline for comments is 12<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p><i>Alison Sandiford</i> <b>Deputy Town Clerk</b> <b>Chepstow Town Council</b></p>
<p>Wed 04/05/22 15:17</p>	<p>Thank you for your email below, and its attachment received yesterday.</p> <p>I note that the closing date for the consultation is in 6 working days time.</p> <p>With the local elections taking place tomorrow, and the requirement for local councils to call an Annual meeting etc for the new Council to form, this closing date does not give local councils sufficient time to get this item on to an agenda for discussion before the closing date. The timescale is very tight.</p> <p>Is it possible that you are able to extend this closing date to at least the end of the month, or until the 12<sup>th</sup> June at least, as a timescale of one week is not realistic.</p> <p>Look forward to hearing from your</p> <p>Regards Beverly.</p> <p>Mrs Beverly Cawley Clerk to the Council MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL</p>

<p>Tue 10/05/22 11:05</p>	<p>Sarah Lloyd-Davies <a href="mailto:sarah.lloyd-davies@estyn.gov.wales">sarah.lloyd-davies@estyn.gov.wales</a></p> <p>Dear Wendy</p> <p>Many thanks for sharing your draft agreed syllabus with us. I've shared this with our relevant inspectors and Directors however we won't be providing a specific consultation response.</p> <p>Many thanks</p> <p><b>Sarah Lloyd-Davies</b>  <b>Knowledge and Information Officer   Swyddog Gwybodaeth a Hysbysrwydd</b>  Information Services   Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth</p>
<p>Thu 12/05/22 16:03</p>	<p>Hi Wendy,</p> <p>Both myself and RVE Lead have looked in detail at the draft document. We are very pleased to receive this and reassured that it aligns well with Curriculum for Wales.</p> <p>However, we would like to raise a point relating to the Legal Requirements for RVE (p4) and the first bullet point. We strongly feel SAC need to acknowledge the phrase, "taking account of", implies schools should be teaching only Christianity in any depth and deliver a much simpler outline of other faiths, rather than study in any meaningful detail. We feel this may be interpreted in a way that goes against the principles of Curriculum for Wales, as schools should not be restricted in their creativity in designing and evolving their bespoke curriculum. Best practice would suggest exploration of world faiths and to utilise the school's community, environment, contemporary issues and pupil voice to support the learning, rather than directing schools (as the bold text implies), enabling learners to acquire knowledge and understanding to show respect to other beliefs, both religious and non-religious.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Catherine Jones, Headteacher, Osbaston Church in Wales Primary School  Clare Cooper</p>
<p>Thu 12/05/22 19:46</p>	<p>Dear Wendy,</p>

Sorry this is late in the day. My capacity is really stretched at the moment but I really wanted to support you and your ASC by responding. On the whole this is a very good agreed syllabus, with lots of great information and features that schools and practitioners will find useful. Well done!

I have included a copy of the document you sent with one or two of my own personal/professional comments for your ASC to consider. Please note that I do not speak on behalf of WASACRE, Welsh Government, or Wrexham LA in these comments, they are entirely my own.

Many thanks.

With best wishes,  
Libby

Libby Jones  
Ymgynghorydd Addysg Grefyddol / Religious Education Adviser

- the definition of Christianity and religion remains unchanged

As for **non-religious philosophical convictions**:

- where the term 'non-religious' is used, this refers to 'non-religious philosophical convictions';
- the reference to philosophical convictions in the guidance is linked to philosophical convictions within the meaning of Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights ("ECHR") (right to education);
- neither the 1996 Act, the 2021 Act or the ECHR define what 'non-religious' means, however the term can be defined in relation to philosophical convictions as those in respect of which there is no requirement to believe in a religion e.g. a belief in man-made climate change can be held by persons of all faiths and none;
- non-religious philosophical convictions are not synonymous with 'opinions' and 'ideas' but denote views that attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance (*Valsamis v Greece* [1996] 12 WLUK 394; ECtHR);

L

**L.Jones (WASACRE)**

Does it? Always? 'Non-religious philosophical convictions' is the term WG has chosen to include in the Act. However, the definition they offer in the guidance is not helpful and is misleading for schools. In my professional opinion non-religious refers also to non-religious beliefs like humanism that cannot be held by religious people and should not be explored from a religious perspective, but rather in their own right. I would urge caution about including this section as it currently stands.

L

**L.Jones (WASACRE)**

Yes but provision in the curriculum should also be made for the exploration of non-religious beliefs that can only be held by those who do not believe in God or an ultimate reality

- o atheism, agnosticism, scepticism (*R (Williamson) v Secretary of State for Education and Employment* [2005] AC 246; England and Wales Court of Appeal)
- o pacifism (*Arrowsmith v United Kingdom* [1978] 10 WLUK 81; European Commission of Human Rights)
- o conscientious objection to military service (*Bayatyan v Armenia* [2011] 7 WLUK 214; European Court of Human Rights)
- o veganism (*CW v United Kingdom* [1993] 1 WLUK 536; European Commission of Human Rights)
- o man-made climate change (*Grainger plc v Nicholson* [2010] 2 All ER 253; UK Employment Appeal Tribunal)
- o gender-critical belief (*Forstater v CGD Europe* [2021] 6 WLUK 104; UK Employment Appeal Tribunal)
- o pro-life belief (*Van Schijndel v The Netherlands* (30936/96); European Commission of Human Rights)

### Post-16 RVE

In the Curriculum for Wales, the mandatory status of RVE has been removed for Sixth Forms in maintained schools. Therefore, RVE is now optional for these learners. However, this does not prevent individual schools with Sixth Forms from timetabling RVE for all students, if they wish to. Sixth Formers **have the right to 'opt in' to RVE** and the **school would legally have to provide RVE for those learners upon request.**

There are a variety of ways that a school can provide RVE for Sixth Formers who request it. For advice on this type of provision, schools can contact the RVE Partner or Monmouthshire SAC on RVE for support. Contact details are available on page 2 of this document. More information on Post-16 RVE can be found here: [Link to Post-16 RVE Guidance](#)

L

L.Jones (WASACRE)

I'm not sure how helpful this list is and personally/professionally I wouldn't include it in an agreed syllabus. Some of these are included in the legal summary anyway, which you have referenced and linked below. As examples these are confusing and the list excludes organized non-religious beliefs/worldviews such as Humanism, which is one that schools and practitioners would be able to get to grips with and understand.

L

L.Jones (WASACRE)

It needs to be clear here that this is not as of Sept 2022. In fact RVE will become optional for 6<sup>th</sup> formers in 2027.
