



Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00518/25

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10 June 2025

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 29 April, regarding support for mandatory Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) in Wales.

I want to thank you for your continued support of RVE and your work in supporting schools to make this happen. Both WASACRE and Standing Advisory Councils continue to have an important role in helping schools meet their legislative requirements and ensuring our children and young people develop as ethical, informed citizens.

Supporting and monitoring delivery of RVE at qualifications years

As you have noted the new RS GCSE is not designed to meet all aspects of the RVE requirements and as you've discussed with Qualifications Wales, some aspects of the RVE guidance are experiential. Therefore, we expect schools to include mandatory learning in RVE in Years 10 and 11, outside of a formal qualification.

Nationally, it is good to see that from our early evaluation work, we are seeing progress in the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. We continue to work with the profession and partners such as Estyn to understand what's working well around RVE and both my officials and I would welcome an ongoing dialogue with WASACRE on this. Overall, it is clear that schools are moving forward with curriculum rollout and there's a large amount of innovative and effective practice but it's important that that happens across mandatory elements.

Support for schools

We expect Local Authorities and school improvement services to support schools with the quality of their learning provision, their evaluation of this and their planning for improvements.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We are also establishing a new Professional Learning and Leadership body as announced previously, ([Written Statement: School improvement \(17 October 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)), bringing together the current functions of the National Academy for Educational Leadership and some of the functions of the regional consortia and local authority partnerships into a new national body.

The body will be responsible for designing and delivering professional learning and leadership support on a national level in response to system and Welsh Government priorities but will initially be focussed on delivering a small and prioritised range of national professional learning, helping to create a simplified and coherent professional learning landscape.

Local authorities will work with the body to support delivery on a local level and will continue to deliver the more bespoke school-based professional learning in response to local priorities and needs, through their own services, or potentially through the services offered by new local partnership arrangements or redefined regional offers.

You'll be aware of the new area on [Hwb](#) where practitioners can access a range of professional learning resources, experiences and opportunities and we remain open to how we can ensure this best supports schools. Your work with officials on including a resource card linking to the WASACRE website is an example of this and this should be completed in the coming weeks. In addition, WJEC has delivered a series of 'Preparing to Teach' face-to-face events through a Pan Wales Roadshow which commenced in February. This was possible by the co-ordination of Inset Days across secondary school clusters. The Welsh Government is providing £500k to support this PL programme. WJEC has also made available a [shared space](#) where teachers can share their own resources. This space is for teachers who wish to share and exchange resources. All the resources in this area are free to download.

Ensuring schools comply with statutory requirements in relation to RVE

You also ask about mechanisms to ensure consistency and compliance with statutory requirements in relation to RVE and whether it could feature in future performance measures to support this.

We have published specific guidance on 14-16 pathways which make clear our expectations for learning in RVE. As part of our approach to data, we are expecting secondary schools to publish details of their RVE provision. Officials have just completed a series of events, meeting with all secondary heads across Wales to raise awareness of the guidance, signposting the expectations.

We expect RVE practice to be considered through the multiple levels of accountability within the system, including through Estyn inspection. We have recently consulted on a proposed 14-16 Learner Entitlement Indicators Framework (LEIF), designed to provide transparency of a 14 to 16 offer at a school level, reflecting the breadth of the 14-16 learner entitlement, but I am clear that data alone does not represent accountability. We have moved away from the high-stakes arrangements of the past where a few results provided a judgement on the performance of a school. The framework, however, does include the expectation for schools to make information available on RVE as a valued part of their balanced 14 to 16 learning offer. Publication of this information will aid a public understanding of schools' offers and practices. Alongside this, we expect evaluation activity, including accountability processes, to be informed by a range of appropriate evidence to support the system in making improvements in learning. I expect to confirm our approach informed by responses to this consultation in June.

Supporting the development of RVE teachers

Building on the support outlined above, I recognise there are challenges in the recruitment to ITE programmes of students training to teach RE as a subject and I am grateful for the contribution you have made to developing a project plan to address this issue, in conjunction with the National Panel for Religious Education (Wales). There are on-going discussions to consider the pipeline into secondary schools, improving incentive schemes, enhanced Professional Learning for specialists, campaigns and innovative ways to ensure all learners have optimised access to experts.

The role of SACs and WASACRE going forward

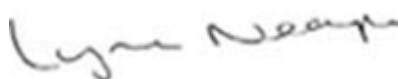
The role of SACs and WASACRE remain key to supporting the continued learner progression from 14-16, reflecting the role of SACs, as stated in legislation. It is important that key stakeholders, such as yourself, continue to engage and offer their expertise to awarding bodies who will be developing the new wave 3 qualifications. Qualifications Wales are collating a directory of the contact details of key stakeholders that will be shared with awarding bodies developing these qualifications. Awarding Bodies will then be able to contact relevant stakeholders from the directory to request their input into the qualification development process. I am informed Qualifications Wales has shared this information with WASACRE, and I would encourage you to continue to engage.

I was pleased to hear that WASACRE are in conversation with Adnodd regarding the provision of educational resources. RVE is one of the key areas of priority listed in Adnodd's funding letter for next financial year. Over the coming months, I have been assured that Adnodd will work with relevant stakeholders, such as yourself, and practitioners to determine the specific support that is most urgently required and to put an effective response in place. Going forward I fully envisage a roll for SACs and WASACRE to support the commissioning of high-quality bilingual resources that support and inspire the teaching of RVE.

I want to thank you again for the important role you played in the co-construction of the additional Curriculum for Wales guidance for Religion, Values, and Ethics (RVE) and the continued support you give to the profession, working with LAs and schools.

I know that you are meeting with my officials in the coming weeks to discuss these issues, and I have asked my officials to keep me apprised of the outcomes.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education