

MONMOUTHSHIRE STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGION, VALUES AND ETHICS (SAC)

Dear Headteacher,

ESTYN INSPECTION - RVE, SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND VALUES EDUCATION

The Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) would like to congratulate King Henry VIII 3-19 School, its leadership team, staff and pupils on the strong Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) provision recognised in Estyn's February 2026 inspection report.

SAC was particularly pleased to read that pupils develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding well through RVE lessons and assemblies. We were also encouraged by Estyn's recognition of older pupils' ability to analyse complex ethical issues and produce coherent, balanced arguments in response to challenging and thought-provoking questions. These findings highlight the positive impact of RVE within the school and its important contribution to developing thoughtful, respectful and informed learners.

The inspection findings demonstrate how RVE supports the aspirations of Curriculum for Wales by helping young people engage with questions of religion, belief, values and lived experience, while developing the skills and dispositions needed to become ethical, informed citizens.

SAC was also pleased to see the positive picture of pupils' behaviour, wellbeing and engagement reflected throughout the report. Estyn notes that most pupils engage positively in learning, show respect for others and collaborate effectively with their peers and staff. These strengths help to create an environment in which RVE and wider values education can flourish.

The report's recognition of the role that RVE and assemblies play in supporting pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is particularly welcome. It reflects the contribution that this work makes not only to curriculum learning, but also to the wider ethos of the school and the development of learners across all phases.

As King Henry VIII 3-19 School continues to develop its all-age provision, SAC recognises the opportunity to build further on these strengths through collaboration across phases, supporting progression in RVE and the continued development of pupils' ethical understanding, enquiry skills and critical thinking.

Monmouthshire SAC would like to express its appreciation to the RVE team, school leaders and all staff who contribute to this important aspect of school life. Their dedication has clearly helped to create meaningful learning experiences that support pupils' personal growth and understanding of the world around them.

Please convey SAC's congratulations and thanks to colleagues for their continued commitment to high-quality RVE provision. We look forward to continuing to support schools across Monmouthshire as RVE develops within Curriculum for Wales and would be pleased to offer advice, professional learning and opportunities to share effective practice.

We wish King Henry VIII 3-19 School every success as it continues to build on the many strengths identified in the inspection report.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Laura Wright

*Cabinet Member for Education/Chair of Monmouthshire Standing Advisory Council for Religion,
Values and Ethics*