



Advice from the Wales Association of SACREs (WASACRE) on the preparations and process of the agreed syllabus conference in recommending a new agreed syllabus for Religion, Values and Ethics, May 2022.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the ASC recommend that the LA adopts the RVE Guidance as it is on Hwb, by simply providing a link to it on the Council website?

No. The Agreed Syllabus must be recognizably the local authority's own Agreed Syllabus albeit they may consider it appropriate to draw heavily/entirely on the RVE Guidance and provide a link to the RVE guidance within that document. It should be clear to the reader from the document itself that it is the Agreed Syllabus.

How big/detailed does the locally agreed syllabus have to be?

It is important for the agreed syllabus to be accessible to its wide ranging audience, i.e. easy to read and easy to understand. As such, it should not be overly long or unwieldy. However, it does need to contain some basic information about RVE and offer appropriate guidance for the provision of RVE in schools. It is important to note that all of this information already exists within the RVE Guidance on Hwb and therefore it does not need to be duplicated, but rather introduced and signposted for the reader.

Can our local ASC simply lift the text from the RVE Guidance on Hwb and place it within a PDF and recommend that as the locally agreed syllabus?

This is not recommended. There are embedded links within the RVE Guidance on Hwb, to other parts of the Curriculum for Wales Framework, which make it interactive and more useable for practitioners. Therefore, replicating the entire text and format in a hard copy will diminish its effectiveness and original purpose, it would also put the agreed syllabus at risk of becoming dated and out of step with any revisions made by Welsh Government to the guidance on Hwb. It is advised that a better solution would be for the locally agreed syllabus to provide a link to the guidance on Hwb and/or separate links to specific sections. That way practitioners can access it and use it interactively, as it is intended, in one place.

Can an ASC amend the text from the RVE Guidance on Hwb, and the legal summary on RVE, to reflect local preferences for its locally agreed syllabus?

This is not recommended. Making amendments to the text from the RVE Guidance, or the legislation summary will be confusing and misleading and will impact unnecessarily on workload, particularly for schools and practitioners. All schools in Wales have to 'have regard' to the RVE Guidance on Hwb as part of the Curriculum for Wales Framework and therefore the agreed syllabus should support this. If there are local considerations or examples that the ASC wants to raise, these would be better placed separately in an appendix.

Should any ACS or SAC's have concerns about the legislation within the guidance they should raise this with the Welsh Government as a matter of urgency.

What happens if the ASC cannot agree unanimously on an agreed syllabus to recommend to the local authority?

This is a matter for the ASC to resolve and if needed they may ask the LA for support with moving forward. To recommend an agreed syllabus to the LA the ASC must have a unanimous vote in favour of the prepared syllabus, therefore it is vital that a resolution is sought, otherwise the matter will be referred to the Welsh Government.

What happens if local schools/practitioners say that the RVE guidance doesn't provide enough guidance?

An agreed syllabus is not intended to be a scheme of work. It should provide a framework within which each school can best design its own local curriculum which includes RVE within the Humanities Area. Some agreed syllabi may include annexes that provide exemplar material. However, as it is still early days exemplar material is not always readily available. This is something that could be added at a later stage. In the meantime the Welsh Government is providing a baseline of professional learning resources for schools and practitioners which will support them in designing their curriculum to include RVE in line with the guidance and their locally agreed syllabus.