

Qualifications Wales Consultation on the Full qualifications offer.

Organisation – WASACRE

Questions relevant to RVE:

Q47– Are you happy to answer a few more questions about possible Foundation qualifications in Religion, Values and Ethics, Health and Wellbeing and for learners who use English, or Welsh, as an additional language?

Yes

No

Q48 – We are proposing to create a Foundation qualification in Humanities, as well as units within the Skills for Life qualifications in Religion, Values and Ethics. In addition to these, do you consider there is a need for a standalone Foundation qualification in Religion, Values and Ethics?

Yes

No

I don't know

Q49 - Please explain your answer.

Possible points for SACRE/SACs to include are:

- The optionality within the skills suite and the Humanities foundation qualifications could leave a situation where schools or learners do not choose units relating to RVE and therefore mandatory RVE may not be provided for all learners of all abilities.
- The limited number of units within the skills suite and the Humanities foundation qualifications which relate to RVE means that the scope of RVE set out in the statutory Curriculum for Wales guidance may not be covered appropriately.
- The take up of the present GCSE Religious Studies short course shows there is a significant demand for a standalone RVE qualification in addition to the units offered within the skills suite and Humanities foundation qualifications. If an equivalent RVE specific qualification is available within the foundation qualifications offer, there is no reason to think that it will not be utilised.
- Learners should have the opportunity under the rights of the child to receive a suitable qualification in subjects which are mandatory, including RVE.
- A qualification for RVE as one of the four mandatory elements of the Curriculum for Wales would support learner engagement and give value to both learners and schools.
- A standalone qualification for RVE will assist with ensuring that purposeful, valuable and worthwhile teaching and learning happens within mandatory RVE teaching time, which supports the 4 purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

- We are living in a more diverse society and if we do not provide accredited teaching and learning in RVE in order to support learners' understanding of diversity then we are ignoring an essential aspect of learner's development and progression within the Curriculum for Wales. There is a greater need than ever to promote tolerance and understanding amongst those of different religions and beliefs, as well as an awareness of empathy. A standalone RVE qualification would support this.
- One of the four purposes is for learners to become ethically informed citizens. How can we ensure that schools provide the mandatory element of RVE within the curriculum, through to age 16 without offering a standalone qualification which is accessible to all learners?
- The fourth purpose, entitled 'healthy and confident individuals', speaks of establishing spiritual and ethical beliefs along with forming positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect. This, again, is an area where a standalone RVE foundation qualification would more naturally contribute to valuable learner progression and achievement of this purpose.
- Having a standalone RVE foundation qualification would support schools and teachers in ensuring that they comply with the legal requirements of statutory RVE from 3-16 years.
- Not having a standalone RVE foundation qualification could lead to mandatory RVE being covered superficially within a limited number of 'related' units within the skills suite and Humanities foundation qualifications. It could also be seen as a burden on both learners and teachers who would need to supplement those units with non-qualification mandatory RVE in order to fulfil statutory requirements.
- A standalone RVE foundation qualification will offer learners, teachers and settings more choice of accredited qualifications which they can build in to curriculum design and planning.
- A standalone RVE foundation qualification will reduce pressure on teachers to develop their own course for mandatory RVE for their 14-16 learners, and will ensure that all relevant documentation and guidance has been considered in its development. This will also enable teams of teachers to co-work and develop resources to assist with the teaching of RVE for the 14-16 age group.

In the event that Qualifications Wales decides to offer a standalone RVE foundation qualification, SACRE/SACs may wish to consider including the following points in this box in addition to the ones above:

- A standalone RVE foundation qualification would need to cover Christianity and other principal religions, including a range of non-religious philosophical convictions to meet statutory requirements.
- It is imperative that the qualification offered is available at all levels (entry level – level 2) as learners of all abilities would require suitable access to the qualification.
- There is a concern that there will be a gap in the provision of a short course RVE/RE specific qualification between 2025 and 2027. This could create a potential problem

with schools looking for an alternative option which may not fully respond to the mandatory requirements of RVE within the Curriculum for Wales. This is a current problem that would only increase with the delay in the roll out of the whole offer, and if there is no specific RVE qualification within the final offer.

- It is of concern that many schools in Wales are offering the ncfе Equality and Diversity qualification which does not meet the requirements of RVE in the Curriculum for Wales. Some schools may choose to offer this qualification to plug the gap between 2025 and 2027, when the full offer is rolled out in schools. This would be a cause for concern.
- One option would be to make the Religious Studies short course GCSE available from 2025 to 2027, until a standalone RVE foundation qualification from entry level to level 2 is available in 2027. This would ensure that schools can viably meet the mandatory RVE requirements of the Curriculum for Wales in the interim period.
- It is requested that Qualifications Wales asks the Welsh Government to reconsider not having a short course GCSE in RVE as well as the full course Religious Studies GCSE, to help ensure that learners have the option to achieve a GCSE qualification in RVE if they wish to on mandatory time.
- At the very least, RVE, as one of the four mandatory elements of the Curriculum for Wales, should be a recognised high-status qualification, even if it is not a short course GCSE.