



Religion, Values and Ethics Policy

Headteacher.....

Chair of Governors.....

Religion, Values and Ethics (R.V.E) Policy

This policy was approved by governors on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 and will be reviewed every three years or following any significant changes.

Introduction and Aims

R.V.E. at Henllys Church in Wales School forms part of the Humanities area of learning. Religion, Values and Ethics is a statutory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales and is mandatory for all learners from ages 3 to 16. There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from R.V.E.

As a voluntary aided school, we follow the Church in Wales guidance [Designing your Curriculum Guidance - The Church in Wales](#) whilst also having regard for the locally agreed syllabus:

<http://www.henllyschurchinwaleschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FINAL-Torfaen-The-Agreed-Syllabus-for-Religious-Education-PDF-Version.pdf>

Wales has a rich and distinctive culture with its own language, customs, festivals, music and politics. It is a culture in which many diverse views co-exist within a society bound by the common values of democracy and the rule of law. This diversity creates the dynamic and vibrant society, which reflects modern Welsh life where all social, cultural, religious and spiritual beliefs are scrutinised, and those who hold them are respected and treated equally.

Henllys Church in Wales School has deep rooted Welsh traditions celebrating St David's Day with a Eucharist, where the local community are invited to acknowledge their Patron Saint, and a whole school Eisteddfod culminating in a crowning of the bard ceremony. Various Welsh Saint Days are celebrated throughout the year, particularly Santes Dwynwen.

The celebration and underpinning of this diversity is fundamental to the ethos of Henllys Church in Wales School and is embedded in all aspects of the curriculum through rich learning experiences. Throughout its history Wales has welcomed people of different faiths and from different cultures, and via its teaching of the subject of religion, values and ethics, Henllys Church in Wales School supports an approach which promotes the understanding of and respect for all religions, beliefs and non-religious world views, thus reflecting the diversity that exists in our forward-looking Welsh society.

Our approach celebrates a creative, compassionate education that embraces and empowers, ensuring that children and young people are supported to engage with matters of "purpose, faith and belief" and to fulfill their roles as valued members of society ready to play a full part in life and work as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world.

Henllys Church in Wales School works in partnership with the Church in Wales and both the Monmouth and Llandaff dioceses.

R.V.E. and the Curriculum for Wales

R.V.E. is situated within the Humanities Area and incorporates a range of disciplinary approaches that can be used by learners to engage critically with a broad range of religious and

non-religious concepts. There are also strong relationships between R.V.E. and the other disciplines within Humanities as well as with other Areas of Learning.

Concepts are important in R.V.E. because they are central ideas that help learners to make sense of and interpret human experience, the natural world and their own place within it. Learners will have opportunities to explore R.V.E. concepts through a variety of sub lenses:

- Search for meaning and purpose: How people respond to the deeper questions of life in order to understand the human condition.
- The natural world and living things: How and why people show concern and responsibility for the world and experience awe and wonder in nature.
- Identity and belonging: What makes us who we are as people, communities and citizens living in a diverse world.
- Authority and influence: How and why different types of authority influence people's lives.
- Relationships and responsibility: How people live together and why developing healthy relationships is important.
- Values and ethics: How and why people make moral choices and how this influences their actions.
- The journey of life: What people experience as part of the journey of life and how these experiences are acknowledged.

R.V.E. in the Curriculum for Wales is objective, critical and pluralistic, both in content and pedagogy and is not about making learners 'religious' or 'non-religious'. The teaching of R.V.E. at Henllys Church in Wales School promotes openness, impartiality, and respect for others.

Time Allocation

A minimum of 5% and up to 10% of curriculum time is designated to R.V.E. which is equivalent to 1 hour 15 minutes per week but will not always take place as a discrete lesson.

Teaching and Learning

Each school must design its own local curriculum. We do this by exploring a series of integrated, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary statements of what matters, together with cross-cutting themes. This means that there are rich opportunities to include a thematic approach to R.V.E.

The Church Year is explored in class and through Worship and Eucharists. Understanding Christianity forms the basis of our teaching and helps the children to ask questions, think deeply and covers the statements. We have a two-year rolling programme of Values which are also taught through lessons and Worship. Other faiths, beliefs including non-religious philosophical convictions are taught discretely with the help of the Church in Wales Resources and RE Today or as they arise through topic work. The Archbishop Young Leaders Award has been trialled as a way of understanding the community and making change. Please refer to our R.V.E. Curriculum Overview for further details.

<http://www.henllyschurchinwaleschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/R.V.E.-Curriculum-Map-For-Parents.pdf>

Spirituality

Henllys Church in Wales School use the Church in Wales spirituality framework to plan opportunities for spiritual development.

We focus on four aspects: self, others, beauty and questions about something beyond the ordinary. This is more fully explained in the framework below.

Self: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of self, being aware of the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. Spiritual learners reflect on the relationship that they have with their sense of being a unique person.

Others: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of others, showing a growing empathy, concern and compassion for how to treat others. Spiritual learners reflect on how their values and principles affect their relationships with others.

Beauty: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world, developing a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. Spiritual learners explore their understanding of beauty and the effect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.

Beyond: Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond, developing a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday.

Resources and Professional Development

We use Understanding Christianity as our main resource to support the teaching of Christianity. RE Today and a range of other resources are used to enhance the teaching of other faiths, beliefs and non-religious philosophical convictions. Where possible the R.V.E. lead attends training and is part of networks that disseminate good practice.

Links to our Church

A Eucharist Service, Family Service or Morning Prayer is held every Sunday at Henllys Church in Wales School along with a Sunday School class led by clergy within the Cwmbran Ministry Area. Once a week a Worship session is taken by the local clergy member who is also a Governor. Preparation classes for confirmation (Year 6) and Baptism (Year 2) are led by the clergy member along with a termly whole school and Community Eucharist. Members of the clergy assist with the Christmas and Leavers' Services which are held in St Gabriel's Church, Cwmbran and attended by the whole school community and their families.

Visits and Visitors

At Henllys Church in Wales School, we encourage visitors to our school in line with our Visitors' Policy. We visit places of worship in the immediate vicinity of the school, where faith leaders and other members of the community meet with children and are involved in the teaching of R.V.E. In addition, we offer the opportunity to visit different places of worship e.g. St Gabriel's Church, St Michael's Church Llantarnam, St. Peter's Church Henllys, Newport Cathedral, Llandaff Cathedral, Brecon Cathedral, Bristol Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral and Gloucester Cathedral. We understand the importance of opportunities to research other faith and belief groups, including those who hold non-religious philosophical convictions, that are represented locally and across Wales, as well as sacred places and spaces, past and present. The children will also visit local mosques and synagogues.

Visitors of different faith and belief groups and those who hold non-religious philosophical convictions are invited in to the school to talk to the children and share their beliefs or views.

Assessment

R.V.E. books are shared in a staff meeting and monitored for progression throughout the school. Good practice, including Assessment for Learning, is shared. The books are then monitored by S.L.T. and the R.V.E. link governor for progression. This ensures that the children know what a point of faith is but can also explore it more deeply as they move through the school. The R.V.E. lead meets with pupils from each class to discuss the work they have completed in their classes and how it relates to the four purposes (Four Cans) and the skills they have been developing. The R.V.E. lead takes samples of books to meet with the feeder high school R.E. department to ensure consistency, progression and to share good practice. The Worship Workers (our Pupil Voice group) also conduct Learning Walks around the school and evaluate Worship.

Parents receive an annual written report in the summer which includes a section on R.V.E. where staff comment on their knowledge, skills and effort within the R.V.E. curriculum and how they demonstrate the Values and Christian ethos in their daily lives

Monitoring

The R.V.E. lead in partnership with the senior leadership team is responsible for monitoring standards of teaching and learning. The link governor is responsible for feeding back to the governing body.

Inspection

R.V.E. is inspected under the Gwella section 50 framework. Link to our current Section 50 inspection report can be found here:

<http://www.henllyschurchinwaleschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Henllys-S50-Feb-2017.pdf>

R.V.E. LEAD: Miss Ruth Bevan

LINK GOVERNOR: Rev. Elizabeth Kerl

DATE: 17/6/2024

DATE FOR REVIEW: July 2027