

NAPFRE BRIEFING PAPER FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT (DRAFT)

Please note this is in draft format.

RE in the present curriculum

Currently RE is not a National Curriculum subject but sits within the 'basic curriculum'. It is statutory for all registered pupils at a school except those in nursery classes, i.e. reception to post 16 inclusive.

RE is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus in all maintained and voluntary controlled schools. Since 2008, all agreed syllabuses in Wales are based on the Welsh Government *National Exemplar Framework for RE*. All local authorities are required to have a SACRE whose role is to monitor the provision of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus for that local authority.

Successful Futures recommends that "religious education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception" (p114).

Questions for consideration:

- What is the intention regarding the position of Religious Education in the new curriculum?
- If Religious Education sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience - as Donaldson proposes- does this mean that there is an intention to no longer require LAs to have a locally agreed syllabus?
- How will this impact on SACREs?

Withdrawal

Schools have a statutory obligation to provide Religious Education. Present legislation allows parents to exercise their right to withdraw their child/children from Religious Education

Questions for consideration:

- Is there an intention to remove the withdrawal clause for RE?
- What will be the implication of the removal of the withdrawal clause?

RE for nursery settings

Currently legislation states that religious education is not statutory for children in nursery classes. However this is an anomaly within the Foundation Phase where all other areas of learning are for 3 to 7 year olds. Without a change in legislation this anomaly would continue within the new *Successful Futures* 3-16 curriculum.

Questions for consideration:

- Will legislation be changed in order to create consistency for Religious Education to be able to sit within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience?