



Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) Policy

This policy was approved by governors on 1st July 2024 and will be reviewed every three years or after any significant changes to the guidance.

Introduction and Aims

RVE at Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary 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 There is no parental right to request that a child is withdrawn from RVE.

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 [Vale of Glamorgan SACRE Agreed Syllabus](#)

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 scrutinized, and those who hold them are respected and treated equally.

Wick is a rural village set in the Vale of Glamorgan. Across the road from the school is St James' Church, one of the 12 churches within the wider Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area. The school has strong links with the parish. The school has a strong Christian ethos and prides itself on "learning, playing, caring and praying in Jesus' footsteps". We embrace, respect and celebrate all beliefs of those in our school community.

The celebration and underpinning of this diversity is fundamental to the ethos of Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary 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, Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary 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.

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School works in partnership with the Church in Wales and Llandaff diocese.

RVE and the Curriculum for Wales

RVE 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 RVE and the other disciplines within Humanities as well as with other Areas.

Concepts are important in RVE 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 RVE 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.

RVE 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 RVE at Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School promote openness, impartiality, and respect for others.

Time Allocation

A minimum of 5% and up to 10% of curriculum time is designated to RVE. This is equivalent to 1 hour 15 minutes per week but will not always take place as a discrete lesson or on a weekly timetable.

Teaching and Learning

In Wick, we teach our RVE in a variety of ways, including through our "inquiry" model. This is where we teach our RVE focus in a 2 or 3 week block, once per term. We also integrate RVE themes into our learning throughout the year, for example Refugee Week and our Acts of Remembrance. This learning is documented through our class floor books. RVE strands are also woven into our general inquiries where appropriate.

Spirituality

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary 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. A range of other resources are used to enhance the teaching of other faiths and non-religious philosophical convictions. Where possible RVE leads attend training and are part of networks that disseminate good practice.

Links to our church

Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School has strong links with the local Ministry Area. Our local church is St James', one of the 12 churches within the wider Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area. We have weekly visits from the clergy as well as regular acts of worship to which parents and carers are invited. Classes often visit St James' Church as part of their RVE teaching and are familiar with the church building.

<https://www.wickchurch.wales/>

<https://www.llanilltud.org.uk/>

Visits and Visitors

At Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School we encourage visitors to our school in line with our visitor's 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 RVE. In addition, in some classes, we offer the opportunity to visit different places of worship e.g. synagogue / mosque. 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. When appropriate and linked to our learning, visitors from other faith groups or those with no faith, are invited to school to share their beliefs with the children.

Assessment

We currently track our RVE against the [Church in Wales RVE Lenses](#) and sub-lenses. We do this in order to ensure continuity and coverage across the lenses in all year groups. We use Digital Learning Journeys to report on our learners' progress during the year as well as meeting with families for parent / learner reviews.

Monitoring

The RVE 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.

RVE is inspected under the Gwella Section 50 framework. The school's last Section 50 Inspection was in 2019.