

## Managing Parental Concerns Regarding RVE

Addressing parental concerns about Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) is an important aspect of fostering a transparent and inclusive school environment. Schools must be prepared to engage thoughtfully with parents, ensuring that any worries are managed with sensitivity and care. This section outlines practical steps for responding effectively to concerns raised about RVE provision, aiming to build trust and mutual understanding between schools and families.

Action List for Schools Responding to Parental Concerns about Religious, Values and Ethics.

### 1. Acknowledge and record the concern

- Listen carefully and respectfully to the parent's concern.
- Document the concern in writing, including the date, time, and details of the issue raised.

### 2. Seek advice

- If necessary, seek advice from the RVE adviser, diocesan advisor, SAC(RE), local authority, regional consortia or safeguarding officer, especially if the concern escalates or involves wider community issues.

### 3. Investigate the concerns

- Concerns may be based on:
  - a) RVE teaching not having regard to the agreed syllabus or WG's RVE guidance.
  - b) RVE provision not being objective, critical and pluralistic.
  - c) Parental misunderstanding as to the objective, critical and pluralistic nature of RVE.
  - d) Parents not being aware that there is no right of withdrawal from RVE.
  - e) Parental prejudicial or racist views.
  - f) Other.

If a) or b)	If c) or d)	If e)
<p><b>Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Was something said on a school visit to a place of worship or by a visitor that the parent perceived as inappropriate? E.g. "you should believe", "we all think..." etc.</li> <li>- Is RVE being taught in an objective, critical and pluralistic way – avoiding "we all believe..." or "as Christians we all..."?</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employ the services of the RVE advisor, diocesan advisor or LA's SAC(RE) representative to audit provision.</li> <li>- The RVE advisor, diocesan advisor or LA SAC(RE) representative may suggest the school's RVE provision does not have regard to the LA's agreed syllabus or WG's RVE guidance. If so, working</li> </ul>	<p><b>Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A parent wants to exercise their previous right to remove their child from all or an aspect of RVE.</li> <li>- A parent doesn't understand the objective, critical and pluralistic nature of RVE.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affirm the school's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and respect for religious traditions and non-religious philosophical convictions.</li> <li>- The school must 'have regard' to the LA's Agreed Syllabus and the Welsh Government's RVE guidance.</li> <li>- RVE is described as being Objective, Critical and Pluralistic.</li> <li>- Consider sharing curriculum details, policies, and rationale for teaching about different religions, including religions such as Islam and Judaism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>a. <b>Pluralistic</b></p> <p>The RVE provided in all schools must be pluralistic. This means that RVE:</p>	<p><b>Concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determine if the complaint/concern is based on racist motives and act accordingly. Does the concern include language or behaviour that may be racist or discriminatory (e.g., objections specifically targeting Islam or Judaism)? Follow the school's policy for recording and responding to racist incidents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Log the incident formally using the school's racist incident reporting system, noting the</li> </ul>

<p>with the RVE advisor, diocesan or LA SAC(RE) representative, action plan possible changes to the curriculum, e.g., review the school's RVE policy and curriculum for clarity and compliance. Provide training for teachers on objective, critical and pluralistic RVE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Wales are in the main Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Wales.</li> <li>must also reflect the fact that a number of non-religious philosophical convictions are also held in Wales.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Objective and Critical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools must provide RVE that is also objective and critical, both in content and approach. This is because RVE is a subject for all learners, whatever their personal beliefs or family background. RVE does not require or encourage learners to be religious or non-religious, or to accept a prescribed viewpoint, and all schools must adhere to this. RVE is planned sensitively and delivered with professional integrity.</li> </ul>	<p>nature of the concern and any associated comments.</p>
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**4. Inform SAC(RE) (if not done haven't already).**

- Inform the parent that they may want to share their concerns with SAC(RE).
- Please inform SAC(RE) of the parental concern, this can be done through the RVE advisor or SAC(RE) Clerk.

**5. Provide Support**

- Provide support to affected pupils, staff, or visitors as appropriate.

Group	Types of Support Needed
Staff	Training, advice from RVE/SAC(RE) advisor, policy and curriculum support, safeguarding guidance, wellbeing support.
Pupils	Pastoral care, clarity on RVE purpose, follow-up after racist incidents
Parents	Clear information, reassurance, legal clarity (no withdrawal), respectful dialogue, anti-racism processes explained, routes to SAC(RE)
Visitors	Clarity on RVE purpose, follow-up after racist incidents

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your recent concern regarding Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) provision at our school. We take all parental feedback seriously and appreciate you taking the time to share your views with us.

Please be assured that our school is committed to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment for all pupils, staff, and visitors. As part of this commitment, we follow the statutory curriculum for RVE, which is designed to reflect a broad range of beliefs and values in line with national guidance.

Our RVE curriculum is carefully designed to present a balanced and wide-ranging view of religious and non-religious worldviews. We strive to ensure that teaching is delivered in an objective, critical, and pluralistic manner. This means that pupils are encouraged to explore different beliefs and values, develop informed opinions, and engage in respectful dialogue, all within a safe and supportive environment.

We believe that fostering critical thinking skills and promoting mutual understanding are essential for preparing our pupils to thrive in a diverse society. Our aim is not to promote any particular set of beliefs, but rather to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to make their own informed choices.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss our approach in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us. We value your feedback and remain dedicated to ensuring that all members of our school community feel respected and included. You may also wish to share your concerns with the Standing Advisory Council for Religion Education (SAC(RE)), who oversee the provision of RVE in our area.

Thank you once again for raising your concern. We remain dedicated to ensuring that all pupils feel valued and respected within our school community.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Role]

[School Name]