

Welsh Government Consultation on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum for all learners

To all SACRE members:

On 3rd October 2019, Welsh Government opened a consultation on proposals to ensure access to the full curriculum in Wales. The proposals apply to children in all maintained schools in Wales. SACRE members are strongly advised to respond to the consultation, as the proposals, should they come into effect will have a direct and significant impact on RE in schools in Wales.

Responses to the consultation are required by 28th November 2019. The consultation will, therefore, be closed prior to the Autumn SACRE meetings, but should you wish to discuss the proposals, please feel free to contact Angela Hill who has taken up the post of RE Consultant to the five SACREs of Central South Consortium. You may email her at angela@retoday.org.uk or telephone her on 07889530743.

Summary of Proposals

The proposals set out in this consultation are as follows:

- To remove the parental right to withdraw their children from all or part of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- To remove the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education (RE)
- A change of name for RE to 'Religions and Worldviews'

The full consultation can be found here: <https://gov.wales/ensuring-access-full-curriculum>

Context of proposals: Religious Education

The proposed changes will align with the New Curriculum for Wales in which Religious Education is set to become part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, alongside History, Geography, Business Studies and Social Studies. These changes are scheduled to become effective in 2022.

SACREs' remit in relation to proposed changes

As SACREs advise on Religious Education and collective worship in schools, issues relating exclusively to Sex and Relationships Education are outside SACRE's scope for consideration.