

CAW13 Individual

Consultation on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

About you

Individual

1. The Bill's general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the [Curriculum and Assessment \(Wales\) Bill](#)?

Partly

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1500 words)

The proposed bill properly addresses the need for revision in the teaching of religion values and ethics, where it fails is to make proper allowance for a non-religious world view, known to be the view held by the largest minority of people (some would argue increasingly the view of a majority of Welsh people).

The provision within the bill permitting faith schools to teach their own version of RVE does a disservice to the children in those schools by failing to open young minds to the possibilities inherent in a free will choice based on evidence and personal inclination.

Children should be exposed to every viewpoint without bias.

The national curriculum should look to create an environment where learning and reason is paramount and where religious dogma is understood to be exactly that.

1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

The aims of the bill are laudable but in the effort to avoid causing offence the obligation to teach children to question authority, giving them the freedom to challenge belief systems, without fear of censure is missing within the legislation, which would still allow children in faith schools to be marked down for their lack of belief.

Atheism is insufficiently protected within a faith school environment by this bill.

My 2 boys are atheists and went to a Roman Catholic school where they felt they must stay silent about their lack of belief for fear of censure and/or shunning. The bill should look to address this and I cannot see that it does.

2. The Bill's implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

Churches who fund schools may withdraw support if obliged to teach RVE from a strictly secular angle. This type of financial pressure, intended to permit the continuance of what could amount to child abuse, as young minds are indoctrinated with dogma, superstition and spiritual beliefs. The bill must try harder to protect non-believers in faith schools.

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

I cannot see that it does

3. Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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4. Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#))? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

as above re removal of faith based contributions.

5. Powers to make subordinate legislation

5.1 Do you have any comments on the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#)). If no, go to question 6.1.

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 500 words)

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6. Other considerations

6.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

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