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?

Yes

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)

It is right that a standard RVE provision is made across all schools.

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)

Yes

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)

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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)

3. Unintended consequences
3.1 Do you think there are 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)

If faith schools are allowed to continue to offer a “confessional” religious education, alongside an RVE, then it is likely the RVE provision may take second place, or that students and parents will be discouraged from taking up the RVE offering.

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)

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)
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)*

I would urge due consideration of the response from the National Secular Society to this consultation, namely:

- Implement a duty on all schools to teach an objective, critical, and pluralistic RVE syllabus, without exception.

- Abolish SACREs, so that religious interest groups do not control the subject.

- Pause on removing the right to withdrawal until the new curriculum has had time to bed in.