Ep 28: RE in Wales: a chance for fundamental change

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How much progress will the Welsh government make with its proposed reforms to RE? In this episode, Emma Park speaks to Stephen Evans, CEO of the NSS, and Alastair Lichten, head of education, for an update.

Encouragingly the subject's name is to be changed to 'Religion, Values and Ethics', to reflect a more pluralist and critical approach. But the proposed abolition of parents' right to withdraw their children is more concerning. Faith schools will still be able to teach RVE 'in line with the tenets of their faith', but will be obliged to offer a secular alternative if parents expressly choose it.

Do these proposals go far enough? And should religious education continue to be a separate subject that is compulsory for all students up until 16? Join Emma and her guests for comment and analysis.

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Notes

NSS response to RVE proposals in Wales

Will Wales lead the way in reforming RE? – Stephen Evans, 2 June 2020

Should lessons on sex and religion take parents' wishes into account? — Emma Park, 12 March 2020

NSS podcast, Episode 17: RE in Wales

I'm listening to the latest episode of the NSS podcast. They discuss Welsh govt plans to teach about religion and beliefs in a more pluralistic way, their implications for the rest of the UK, why they fall short and what you can do to improve them.

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We need a new subject to teach children about worldviews, citizenship and ethics.

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