



Religion in Schools

Learning Lessons from Wales

By *Russell Sandberg*

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A first account of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, the most important change to education in Wales for over thirty years and the most significant transformation of the place of religion in schools since the Second World War.

To what extent should religion be taught in classrooms? Should lessons also cover non-religious beliefs? Should the teaching of religion be compulsory or should it be a matter of choice by the parents or the child? Should faith schools be allowed to teach their religious beliefs? Should religious worship be compulsory for all pupils? Questions of how religion operates within schools prove controversial and divisive. This book explores radical changes that are being made in Wales and the lessons that can be learnt. It examines the historical development of the law in this area, the new Welsh law, its potential shortcomings and areas that the new law leaves untouched, namely the rules on religious worship. The book is written by a leading authority on the interaction of law and religion whose work fed into Welsh parliament debates on the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

Readership

Experts and students in law and religion, education law, human rights and those interested in the devolution of law.

Contents

Acknowledgments; 1. Introduction; Part One RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP UNDER ENGLISH LAW; 2. The Position before the Butler Act; 3. The Butler Act; 4. The Position after the Butler Act; 5. The Current Law; 6. The Human Rights Context; Part Two THE NEW WELSH LAW ON RELIGION VALUES AND ETHICS; 7. The New Curriculum for Wales; 8. The Consultation Phase; 9. The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill; 10. The Passage of the Bill; 11. The New Law; 12. Conclusion; Bibliography; Index

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Russell Sandberg is Professor of Law at Cardiff University.

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