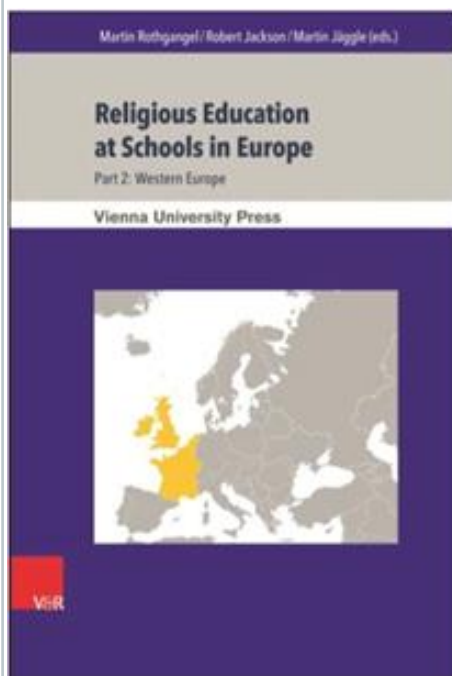




## St Mary's Centre speaks for Religious Education in Wales

Tania ap Sion



Last week Dr Tania ap Sion's authoritative paper on Religion and Education in Wales was launched in Vienna in the second volume of the magisterial series of books on *Religious Education at Schools in Europe*. This paper is positioned to serve as the major reference point on Religious Education in Wales for the next decade.

*Religious Education at Schools in Europe* sets out and explores religious education within countries across Europe by employing a common framework that enables a comparative perspective to be taken. "Religion and Education in Wales" covers a range of areas, including:

- Socio-religious background (religious diversity, ethnic diversity, Welsh language and Welsh identity)
- Legal frameworks of RE and the relationship between religious communities and the state (origins of church schools, development of secular schools, Education Act 1944, consequences of devolution, Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Developments in the country's education policies (14-19 learning, foundation phase learning, 8-14 learning, literacy and numeracy)
- Role of religiously sponsored schools, including any changes and developments, legal relationships (trends in church school provision, the Church in Wales, the Roman Catholic Church)
- Conceptions and tasks of RE

- Practice/reality of RE in different schools
- Observations on alternative subjects/learning areas like ethics, philosophy etc.
- Dealing with religious diversity
- Religion in schools outside of RE
- Training of teachers of RE: institutes, structures, priorities, issues
- Empirical research concerning RE (religious education in the primary school, listening to 13- to 15-year-old students, Church in Wales schools, Roman Catholic schools, Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education)
- Challenges for RE in a European context

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Chapter reference:

ap Sion, T. and Francis, L.J. (2014). Religion and Education in Wales. In M. Rothgangel, R. Jackson, and M. Jaggle (Eds). *Religious Education at Schools in Europe, Part 2: Western Europe*, pp. 261-287, Vienna: Vienna University Press.

For more information about the series:

<http://www.rel-edu.eu/home-current-issues/>