Religious Education in Sweden

History and Characteristic Traits

History

Sweden Today
History

From Lutheranism to miniature scientists via life questions.
1686 to 1882

Teaching in Lutheranism

1686, church law:
Duty of the parent that the household can read (the Bible).

1842, folk school:
The state takes some of the responsibility (from church and family).

1882, duty to attend school
Everyone has to attend school. To learn what Lutheran Christianity demands of everyone.
1686 to 1882

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Year 1919

Gradual changes,

- religion seen as private;
- society makes more, and different demands of its citizens;
- additional content to the school curriculum.
Year 1919

1919, removal of Catechism

Ties between school and church formally cut.

Luther's small Catechism no longer part of the curriculum.

Non-confessional, Christian teaching.
1962 to 1980 from Christianity to life questions

1962, knowledge of religion

Subject changes character, from knowledge of Christianity to knowledge of religion.

General teaching about religion.
1962 to 1980 from Christianity to life questions

Lively debate!

The foundation for the subject was removed.

What should the aim and content be?
1969 curriculum: life questions

The concept "life questions" is introduced as an alternative.

1980 curriculum: further emphasis on life questions
1994 to 2011

More space for knowledge about, and reflection on, other religions and secular worldviews.
2011, religion and society

More knowledge about additional themes.

Less reflection.

Less (no?) emphasis on pupil's worldviews.
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Swedish Church, members (% of pop)
Sweden Today  Religious Adherents (uncertain numbers!)
Sweden Today

Worldviews (2017)

Institution of Theology. 500 respondents, age 18-74.
Religious Education Today

Goals

- Understand diversity.
- Develop respect and understanding.
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- Everyone in the same classroom.
  - From class 1 to 12.
  - From stories to information and societal analysis.

- Open subject.

- Appreciated discussions.
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- Secular, atheistic discourse
- "Believers" don't recognize themselves.
- Afraid of "touching" the religious.
RE Didactics = The Curriculum ... also

Religious Studies

National Curriculum

RE Didactics