Religious Education in Sweden

History and Characteristic Traits
History

From Lutheranism to miniature scientists via life questions.

1686 to 1882
Year 1919
1962 to 1980
1994 to 2011
1686 to 1882

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

Teaching in Lutheranism

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

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Gradual changes,

- religion seen as **private**;
- society makes more, and different **demands** of its citizens;
- additional content to the school curriculum.
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.
Lively debate!

The foundation for the subject was removed.

What should the aim and content be?
1962 to 1980

from Christianity to life questions

1969 curriculum: life questions

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

1980 curriculum: further emphasis on life questions
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.
Religious Education in Sweden

History and Characteristic Traits

History

Sweden Today
Sweden Today

Swedish Church, members (% of pop)
Sweden Today  Religious Adherents (uncertain numbers!)

- Church of Sweden
- Orthodox Chr.
- Roman Catholic
- Equmenia
- Jehovahs Witnesses
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Judaism
- Other / none
Sweden Today

Worldviews (2017)

Religious Education Today

Goals

- Understand diversity.
- Develop respect and understanding.
Religious Education Today

- Everyone in the same classroom.
  - From class 1 to 12.
  - From stories to information and societal analysis.
- Open subject.
- Appreciated discussions.
Religious Education Today

... but

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

Religious Studies

National Curriculum

RE Didactics