

What do the Welsh parties say? Key humanist issues at the 2026 Senedd elections

All party policies come from the respective party manifestos unless a specific reference is given.

Humanists UK question	Welsh Labour	Plaid Cymru	Conservatives	Reform	Liberal Democrats	Wales Green Party
Manifesto link:	Manifesto 2026 - Welsh Labour	https://assets.nationbuilder.com/plaid2016/pages/39542/attachments/original/1772205055/New_Leadership_for_Wales_-_The_First_100_Days.pdf?1772205055	https://www.conservatives.wales/sites/www.conservatives.wales/files/2026-03/Welsh%20Conservatives%20Manifesto%202026%20EN_0.pdf	https://www.reformparty.uk/welsh-manifesto-english.pdf	https://www.libdems.wales/manifesto-2026	https://wales.greenparty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2026/04/Senedd-Manifesto-2026-EN2.pdf?x30553 Emailed to request question responses 30/3
Does your party support fully inclusive school admissions with no religious discrimination?	No stated policy and no action in the current or previous Senedd to address the issues with faith schools and discriminatory admission policies when drawn to their attention. ¹	No stated policy.	No mention of school admissions but there is a manifesto commitment to 'consulting with faith communities when developing legislation and policy that affects them' without explicitly including non-religious belief communities to also be consulted.	No, the manifesto states that they will 'protect the right of Church in Wales schools and Catholic Schools in Wales to maintain their Christian ethos'.	No stated Welsh Liberal Democrats policy in the manifesto.	Not mentioned in the manifesto but wider UK party policy states that: 'No publicly-funded school shall be run by a religious organisation. Schools may teach about religions, comparing examples which originated in each continent, but are prohibited from delivering religious instruction in any form or encouraging adherence to any particular religious belief.' ²
Does your party support changing the law so school assemblies must be fully inclusive of all pupils, rather than being acts of collective worship?	No mention of collective worship in the manifesto. Welsh Government under the current Senedd have committed to reviewing the guidance for the right to withdraw from collective worship, but refused to commit to a full review of the law requiring for acts of worship in schools. ³	No stated policy.	No stated policy. The manifesto states that the 'Welsh Conservatives value the enormous contribution of faith communities to Wales. We recognise the role played by Christianity and other faiths in shaping and serving our nation and believe that our spiritual heritage should be celebrated and promoted.'	There is a manifesto commitment to collective worship in faith schools but it does not mention the position regarding schools without a religious character ⁴	No manifesto reference. Welsh Liberal Democrats has no stated policy unlike the English Liberal Democrats who support its removal.	Not mentioned in the manifesto, but wider UK party policy states that: 'The party will 'abolish the requirement for a compulsory daily act of worship. Schools which choose to continue to hold acts of worship will provide an alternative activity for learners who choose not to take part. Pupils who do not participate in worship will not suffer any form of discrimination.' ⁵
Does your party support the continued equal	No manifesto reference, but as Labour introduced the inclusion of humanism in the	No manifesto reference to religious education, but Education spokesperson	There is a manifesto commitment to review Religious Education in the	No. The manifesto states that they will 'protect the right of	Yes - the Education Minister at the time of the introduction of the Curriculum and	No stated policy.

¹ Careless or uncaring report on discrimination in faith school admissions <https://humanists.uk/2025/07/22/listed-all-the-faith-schools-in-wales-that-discriminate-against-children-in-care/>

² The Green Party, Education Policy <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ed.html>

³ Wales to review school worship guidance <https://humanists.uk/2026/03/11/wales-to-review-school-worship-guidance-wales-humanists-say-law-must-change/>

⁴ Email response to constituent from a Reform MS, 16 February 2026 stated 'Reform UK supports freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and believes that school assemblies and religious education should respect the diverse beliefs of pupils and families in modern Wales. Inclusive assemblies that allow everyone to participate without promoting one faith as superior, or that focus on shared values, moral development, and reflection (rather than exclusively Christian worship), would better align with a pluralistic society while still providing space for spiritual or ethical discussion.'

⁵ The Green Party, Education Policy <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ed.html>

inclusion of humanism in Religious Education alongside major religions, in line with the Curriculum and Assessment Act 2021?	Curriculum and Assessment Act, and the creation of an RVE framework which is fully inclusive, they are likely to remain committed to this position.	confirmed no major curriculum changes planned ⁶ .	curriculum, including re-establishing 'the right for parents to withdraw their children from sex education and religious education lessons'.	Church in Wales schools and Catholic Schools ...to deliver Christian faith-based Religious Education, and provide collective worship in accordance with their traditions.	Assessment Act was a Liberal Democrat, and there is no indication that the party has moved from its supportive position since then. Although this is not specified in the manifesto itself.	
Does your party support equal status for non-religious pastoral carers in healthcare chaplaincy teams	No reference in manifesto and no action in the current or previous Senedd terms.	No reference in manifesto.	The manifesto refers to continued funding for chaplaincy service in the Welsh NHS in the faith communities section. NHS Wales do not currently have any positions for non-religious pastoral carers.	No manifesto reference.	No stated policy.	No stated policy.
Does your party support immediately legally recognising humanist marriages in England and Wales?	No manifesto reference. In 2021 the Welsh Government wrote to the Justice Secretary to ask for immediate recognition of humanist marriage ⁷ , but there has been no further comment since the publication of the UK Labour Government's response to the Law Commission report which outlined that the Government will legally recognise humanist marriages but only as part of wholesale marriage reform which includes a consultation and the introduction of legislation 'when parliamentary time allows'.	No manifesto reference, but in 2021 Plaid Cymru stated that they would support changes to marriage law including devolving responsibility to Wales and permitting legal recognition of humanist marriages. ⁸	No manifesto reference.	No manifesto reference.	No stated policy in Wales and no manifesto reference but there has been long-standing support from the federal party, including in the 2024 General Election manifesto.	No stated Welsh party policy, but the UK Green Party told us in 2017, 'Clearly the law should allow those who wish to have a humanist marriage ceremony the same rights as couples who want a religious ceremony with the celebrant of their choice. The Green Party is committed to ending the current discrimination as soon as possible.'
Will your party support the assisted dying bill and further legislative consent motions in the Senedd?	No manifesto reference. This aligns with Labour's wider approach: treated as a conscience issue / free vote, not manifesto policy.	No manifesto reference. This aligns with the approach during recent debates, treated as a conscience issue / free vote.	No manifesto reference. This aligns with the approach during recent debates, treated as a conscience issue / free vote. Noted that all current Conservative MSs voted against the legislative consent motion.	No manifesto reference. Both current MSs abstained in the recent LCM vote.	No manifesto reference. The current serving MS and leader of the party voted against the recent LCM vote.	No manifesto reference, but the wider UK Green Party have confirmed that they 'believe that people have a right to an assisted death within an agreed framework'. ⁹

⁶ Plaid Cymru Education Spokesperson in conversation with Wales Humanists January 2026.

⁷ Welsh Government calls on UK Government to immediately legally recognise humanist marriages 20 October 2021 <https://humanists.uk/action/wales-marriage-law/>

⁸ Confirmed by the leader of Plaid Cymru during party conference October 2019 in response to Wales Humanists.

⁹ The Green Party, Health Policy. <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/he.html>

Does your party support removing the automatic right of the 26 bishops to sit in the House of Lords?	No reference in manifesto (despite wider UK Labour manifesto commitment on Lords reform).	No reference in manifesto or election plans which focus on devolved responsibilities (despite Plaid traditionally supporting abolition in other contexts).	No reference in the manifesto, but this is not UK party policy.	No manifesto reference	No reference in manifesto but the Humanists and Secularist Liberal Democrat group state that 'The Liberal Democrats strongly oppose the automatic right of Church of England bishops to sit and vote in the House of Lords, viewing it as an undemocratic, unequal, and outdated "feudal legacy". They advocate for a fully elected second chamber, advocating for the removal of the 26 "Lords Spiritual" as part of wider constitutional reform.' ¹⁰	No mention in the manifesto, but the Green Party of England and Wales has an official policy to remove all bishops from the House of Lords and end the Church of England's established status.
Would you oppose any moves in Westminster to weaken our human rights settlement?	Yes - there is no specific manifesto reference but there is evidence of support for current settlement in 'current term actions such as becoming the first part of the UK to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in domestic law and plans to produce a Disabled People's Rights Plan	Yes, clear manifesto pledge to 'Take forward proposals to incorporate key United Nations human rights conventions into Welsh law, building on existing rights protections and embedding international standards in the design and delivery of devolved public services'	No manifesto reference	No manifesto reference but there is reference to the Equality Act: 'The Welsh public sector is stuffed with Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) officers who promote divisive identity politics that ultimately drives us all apart. These positions are almost always grossly overpaid, with salaries that bear no relation to any measurable output. Reform will end this waste of taxpayer's money. The Equality Act is a reserved matter and Wales must comply with it, but there is no requirement to gold-plate it.	Yes - a clear manifesto commitment to: Champion the Human Rights Act and resist any attempts to weaken or repeal it. Uphold the UK's commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights and oppose any attempts to withdraw from it. • Enshrine the rights of children and young people in Wales through Bil Pob Plentyn. Make it easier for disabled people to access public life, including the world of work, and incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into Welsh law.	Yes - a clear manifesto commitment to: ...incorporate international human rights standards into Welsh law, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) within devolved competence

About Wales Humanists

Wales Humanists is a part of Humanists UK. We want a tolerant world where rational thinking and kindness prevail. We work to support lasting change for a better society, championing ideas for the one life we have. Our work helps people be happier and more fulfilled, and by bringing non-religious people together, we help them develop their own views and an understanding of the world around them. Founded in 1896, Humanists UK is trusted to promote humanism by over 150,000 members and supporters. Through our ceremonies, pastoral support, education services, and campaigning work, we advance free thinking and freedom of choice so everyone can live in a fair and equal society.

Wales Humanists and Humanists UK are independent of all political parties and does not support, fund or advocate any particular political party.

All party policies come from the respective party manifestos unless a specific reference is given. Where policies are not stated we contacted the parties to seek further clarity and the table incorporates any replies we received. If you spot something where you think we've got it wrong, or have missed a piece of information, then please do contact us. Some of the issues we discuss are not devolved to Wales and so the policies are aimed at the UK Government in Westminster and not the Welsh Government.

¹⁰ Statement on removal of Lords Spiritual from Humanist and Secularist Liberal Democrats <https://www.hslid.org.uk/news/article/bishops-in-the-house-of-lords-petition-delivered#:~:text=%22The%20UK%20parliament%20is%20the,it%20at%20the%20earliest%20opportunity.%22>

Wales Humanists has been an active participant of the Strategic Stakeholder Group for curriculum reform since 2016, supporting the new curriculum design. We have worked as part of the RVE guidance design team and the RSE Code and guidance working group. We are represented on the Executive of the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on RE (WASACRE) and the Board of the Religious Education Council for England and Wales. Since April 2020, we have been members of the Welsh Government's COVID-19 Moral and Ethical Advisory Group and are founding members of SHaW – Spirituality, Health and Wellbeing in NHS Wales. We are also part of the WCVA Equality and Human Rights Coalition.

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