

Wandsworth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report for the academic year September 2017- August 2018

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2017 to 2018. It also includes GCSE and A-level statistics for RE for 2018.

Religious Education

Wandsworth's Agreed Syllabus

2. The newly agreed syllabus was adopted in September 2017 and this is the first year of its use. Some training, mostly relating to subject knowledge, has been provided for primary RE co-ordinators to help in its implementation.

3. **Monitoring standards and provision**

SIAMS reports (of Section 48 denominational inspections of Church of England schools) and S48 reports for Catholic schools were provided to SACRE for information/discussion. Four SIAMS reports were presented, one good and three outstanding, and two S48 Catholic reports were considered, both of which were outstanding. Of the 17 schools Ofsted inspected in 2016 - 17, seven contained significant comments on RE or spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Complaints

4. No complaints concerning RE were received during the year.

Methods of Teaching and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

5. The primary RE co-ordinators' network met once in each term and received high quality training by a professional RE consultant. The foci for meetings in the last year were
 - Hinduism (October 2017), topic focus from the new syllabus
 - Belonging (January 2018) topic studied across different faiths from the syllabus
 - Judaism (June 2018), topic from the new syllabus

The email network group set up by the LA SACRE Officer has continued to enable members to keep in touch with each other to seek advice and share good practice. It includes some co-ordinators from independent schools as well as LA community schools.

Collective Worship

6. Following discussion at the summer meeting, SACRE produced guidance on collective worship. This was agreed over the summer ready for circulation to schools in autumn 2018. No monitoring of collective worship, either of quality or compliance to statutory requirements, took place during the year. No requests for determinations were received during the year. No schools in Wandsworth have been given determinations in the past.
7. No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year.

Composition of SACRE, Attendance and the focus of meetings

8. Representation is generally good from the local authority, faith communities and teachers. There is now a nominated Sikh member, who has not yet attended a meeting, and there was no attendance by the Hindu community during the year. The Church of England Group B has a new substantive member.

Meetings held in the reporting year

9. Wandsworth SACRE met on three occasions during the academic year 2017 - 2018. All meetings were held during the evening in the Town Hall.

Autumn Term Meeting 2017

10. Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017. A verbal update was received on the Faith Direct event, which had again been very successful.
11. The DfE Guidance Review on "Hosting Speakers on School Premises" was discussed and found to be a helpful document. It was agreed to send it out to schools.
12. The main recommendations from the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) interim report were considered. These related to a national entitlement for RE; holding schools to account for the provision and quality of RE; the role of SACREs; and a national plan for improving teaching and learning in RE. It was resolved to write to the LA to highlight the importance of engaging with the Commission.
13. The Ofsted monitoring and SIAMS reports were noted.

Spring Term Meeting 2018

14. Meeting held on Monday, 26th February, 2018. The SACRE Annual Report for 2016-17 was presented and discussed. The successful adoption of Wandsworth's Agreed Syllabus was noted.
15. Andy Hough, Head of Education Inclusion, was invited to answer questions on the Religious Studies examination results. There had again been a reduction in the numbers of students studying the subject, mostly the short course and likely due to the government ceasing to include the short course in statistics on examination results. The legal requirement to offer RE as part of the curriculum, which did not necessarily lead to examination, was noted. Ways in which the issue of provision for RE could be raised were considered; at secondary level it was more difficult for the LA to be involved as more schools were academies.
16. The provision of collective worship was the next major item for discussion. Its importance in the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development, and the powerful contribution it could make to community cohesion were agreed. While collective worship was a strong and established part of the ethos of a church (VA) school, it was less confidently delivered in some community schools. Other SACREs provided guidance. It was decided that Wandsworth should produce its own guidance, and Angela Rundle, LA SACRE officer, agreed to put this together for the next meeting, with input from interested members of SACRE.
17. The items on the NASACRE briefing were considered.
18. The Chairman, Councillor Dunn, stated that this would be her last meeting as she was standing down from the Council at the forthcoming borough elections. She was thanked by Councillor Walsh on behalf of all members for her hard work and would be much missed.

Summer Term Meeting 2018

19. Meeting held on Monday 18th June, 2018, with Councillor Graham as the new Chairman of SACRE.
20. Angela Rundle presented the draft guidance document on collective worship, which was discussed in detail, and suggestions made for amendments and addition. This would be completed over the summer, ready for circulation in the autumn term.
21. Three SACRE members had attended NASACRE's Jubilee Conference and AGM in May – theme "Stronger Together - Celebrating the Power of Community" . They reported back on the presentations.
22. Newnham SACRE's advice for schools on celebrating Ramadan, with the implications of fasting, was studied. It was agreed that Wandsworth should produce its own guidance in time for the spring meeting before the next Ramadan.
23. Two SIAMS reports were considered.
24. A summary sheet on the guidance and resource pack for primary schools entitled "Diversity of Religion and Belief" had been circulated. It was agreed that it was useful document and should be circulated to the borough's schools.

Links with other bodies

25. Wandsworth SACRE is affiliated to the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

Professional and Administrative Support

26. SACRE meetings are clerked by a Democratic Services Officer from Wandsworth Council. An officer is provided to support the LA. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE is provided by an external consultant, Lesley Prior, who supports a number of London SACREs..

Finance

27. The annual budget for support for RE in 2017-18 was again £4000. This funded the external consultant, LA SACRE Officer, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses.

Standards of RE and Religious Studies (RS) in secondary schools

28. See appendix.

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SACRE MARCH 2019

STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATIONS IN 2018

- **Introduction**

This paper summarises the Wandsworth and England results for 2018 Religious Studies GCSE and A Level examinations. It provides more detailed data for Wandsworth down to school level.

This is provided for information and discussion.

- **Summary of national data**

Outcomes are still provisional to date (software to be updated with final data in April). Headline figures are as follows:

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England at KS4 in 2018 are as follows:

- There were 162,180 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a further fall from 2017 (248,210)
- There were 2,490 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a steep decline from 2017 (12,489)
- There were 164,670 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) in state funded schools, compared with 2017 (260,699)
- Overall this means that compared with 2014 over 179,000 fewer pupils in England will complete key stage 4 this year without gaining a qualification in Religious Studies

Summary of Wandsworth data

- 931 students sat a Religious Studies (RS) examination in Wandsworth in 2018, far below the numbers in 2017 (1265).
- 780 students sat the GCSE full course, and only one the GCSE short course. This was a decrease in full course and short course numbers.

- This year, the number of students in the cohort has been included in the data, which shows the wide variation in the percentage of a cohort opting for RS. For example, in Ark Bolingbroke and Harris Battersea this year, it was only around 10% of the cohort, while Graveney and St John Bosco entered most, and St Cecilia's all of their pupils. It is not surprising that church schools enter more pupils, as RS is entitled to a defined amount of curriculum time, 10% in Catholic schools.
- Last year, there was a one year increase in the numbers taking the short course, due to Burntwood entering over half of their cohort for it. This year, there was only one student from another school doing so.
- Ark Putney again entered no students for GCSE this year, either the full or short course.
- There were 64 entrants for AS level, down from 108 in 2017, and 86 entrants for A Level, which was fewer than last year (109), following the national trend. There were 18,422 candidates for religious studies A level in England and Wales in 2018, down 22.8% from the previous school year and the lowest number since 2008.
- Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, the chief executive of the Religious Education Council is reported as expressing his concern of the dramatic fall in the numbers studying RS, and that it is "an unsurprising consequence of policy decisions such as the exclusion of religious studies from key performance indicators at GCSE, insufficient bursary provision to encourage people to train as RE teachers, and a lack of action to hold schools to account when they fail to teach RE".
- There was a change in the gradings for RS GCSE, from the old A* - G, to the 9 point scale, with 9 the highest outcome possible, and above the old A* grade. 4 is considered a standard pass at GCSE and 5 a strong pass. Direct comparison cannot therefore be made with previous years' results.
- However, Wandsworth students performed strongly in comparison with the national averages, with an average points score of 6.25, compared with 5.1 for all schools nationally and 4.9 for state funded schools. Although Ark Bolingbroke only entered 9 students, their average was an outstanding 8. Only St John Bosco (4.7) and Southfields (2.8) were below the state school average.
- The indicator of new grades 9 -4 showed that Wandsworth was far above the national average – 82.2% compared with 71.8% national, and above the 2017 A* – C results of 78.1%
- At AS level, students performed very well at grades A – E, with an average of 93.3%, compared with 90.9% nationally and for A – B, 51.2% compared to 38.8% nationally.
- At A level, the comparator now chosen is the percentage A* - B rather than A* - C as previously. Here, Wandsworth is below the national average at 50%, compared with 52.1% nationally. However, at A* - E, Wandsworth is above national (98.8% compared with 97.9%).
- Within the LA as ever, results varied widely from school to school. At A level for A* - B, Ashcroft and Chestnut Grove had 81.8%, and Graveney 62.5%. Other schools were below national.
- At GCSE, all but two schools were above the 9- 4 national average, but St John Bosco was only just below and was showing an upward trajectory for the last three years, while Southfields' results were down for the third year in a row.

GCSE results in Wandsworth schools

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCSE Short Course

Centre	Entries					%A* - C (9 – 4 2018)					%A* - G/ave pts 2018				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NCER National	100945	68890	34180	12489	2490	54.4	56.6	54.0	45.9		95.4	96.3	94.3	94.4	
LA Comparator	198	171	7	162	1	58.6	50.3	14.3	34.5		99.0	98.8	71.4	95.1	
Ashcroft Technology Academy	0	0	0	0	0										
Battersea Park School/Harris Battersea	9	0	0	0	0	100.0					100.0				
Burntwood	0	0	0	159	0				35.2					95.1	
Chestnut Grove	0	0	1	0	0			0.0					0.0		
Elliott/ ARK Putney	0	0	0	0	0										
Ernest Bevin	147	144	1	0	1/176	62.6	53.5	100.0		0	99.3	98.6	100.0		2
Garratt Park	0	0	0	0	0										
Graveney School	42	27	2	0	0	35.7	33.3	0.0			97.6	100.0	100.0		
Nightingale School	0	0	0	0	0										
Saint John Bosco College	0	0	1	3	0			0.0	0				100.0	66.7	
Southfields (GM)	0	0	0	0	0										
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	0	0	0	0	0										
Wandsworth Francis Barber (Pru)	1	0	2	0	0	0.0		0.0			100.0		50.0		

2018 data is provisional

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)
Qual: GCSE Full Course

Centre	Entries/NOR					%A* - C (% 9 - 4 2018)					%A* - G/ave pts 2018				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NCER National	243430	269248	268473	248210	162180	69.5	72.2	71.7	71.2	72.4	97.8	98.3	97.8	97.9	5.1
LA Comparator	985	970	1027	886	780	79.2	74.5	74.3	78.1	82.3	98.4	98.4	98.1	98.9	6.25
Ark Bolingbroke Academy				13	9/102				61.5	100				100.0	8.0
Ashcroft Technology Academy	127	91	106	123	128/201	83.5	59.3	86.8	90.2	88.3	98.4	97.8	98.1	100.0	6.4
Battersea Park School/ Harris Battersea	0	131	8	0	10/99		58.0	75.0		100		98.5	100.0		6.2
Burntwood	274	267	265	111	51/262	84.7	80.9	68.7	67.6	84.3	98.9	99.6	98.5	99.1	5.9
Chestnut Grove	135	108	116	115	97/149	59.3	75	72.4	67.8	91.8	94.1	98.1	98.3	99.1	6.0
Elliott/ Ark Putney	0	0	0	0	0										
Ernest Bevin	10	7	73	46	21/176	10.0	14.3	87.7	100.0	90	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	5.4
Graveney School	197	206	239	236	249/258	95.9	91.7	86.2	87.3	85.5	100.0	99.5	99.6	100.0	6.1
Saint John Bosco College	82	89	71	68	57/63	46.3	43.8	39.4	51.5	70.2	98.8	96.6	87.3	88.2	4.7
Southfields (GM)	13	18	9	18	20/133	69.2	83.3	55.6	50.0	25	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	2.8
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	147	144	139	141	138/138	85.0	73.6	69.1	80.1	78.2	98.6	95.1	99.3	100.0	5.1

2018 data is provisional

A& AS level results in Wandsworth schools

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCE AS level

Centre	Entries			%A - C	%A - C	%A - B	%A-E	%A-E	%A-E
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
NCER National	32515	13910	4060	68.6	70.2	39.1	92.7	93.3	91
LA Comparator	191	108	64	64.1	76.9	51.2	91.3	96.3	93.3
Ark Bolingbroke Academy									
Ashcroft Technology Academy	24	23	9	70.8	91.3	88.9	95.8	100	100
Burntwood	46	0	0	52.2			84.8		
Chestnut Grove	16	12	20	75	56.3	100	87.5	100	100
Elliott/ Ark Putney									
Ernest Bevin	8	11	0	87.5	81.8		100	90.9	
Harris Battersea	8	0	6	25		83.3			
Graveney School	33	23	29	90.9	69.9	62.1	100	100	96.6
Saint John Bosco College	1	0	0	0			100		
Southfields									
St Cecilia's, Church of England School									

2018 data is provisional

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)
Qual: GCE A level

Centre	Entries					%A* - C (A*-B 2018)					%A* - E				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NCER National	12294	23372	22079	21289	16560	78.2	80.1	79.9	80.6	52.1	99.8	98.6	98.5	98.4	98
LA Comparator	91	120	166	109	86	60.4	58.8	74.0	73.3	50.0	98.9	96.6	98.2	98.2	99
Ashcroft Technology Academy	9	15	18	11	11	88.9	80.0	100.0	100.0	81.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
Burntwood	26	32	36	28	19	30.8	40.6	72.2	50.0	42.1	100.0	96.9	97.2	96.4	100
Chestnut Grove		14	10	9	11	81.8	78.9	70.0	88.9	81.8		100	100.0	88.9	100
Ernest Bevin	11	2	4	4	4	27.3	100.0	50.0	75.0	25	90.9	100	100.0	100.0	100
Graveney School	28	31	30	25	16	82.1	87.1	73.3	72.0	62.5	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100
Harris Academy Battersea			0	2	0				50.0					100.0	
Saint John Bosco College	1	5	3	0	3	0.0	60.0	66.6		0	100.0	100	100.0		100
Southfields	0	0	12	13	9			58.3	69.2	0			91.7	100.0	100
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	16	20	13	17	13	81.3	100.0	77.0	94.1	46.2	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	92.3

2018 data is provisional