

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

1. This annual report of Wandsworth SACRE outlines the work of SACRE during 2013. It also includes GCSE and A-level statistics for RE for 2013.

Religious Education

Wandsworth's Agreed Syllabus

2. The agreed syllabus currently in use by schools was recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference and subsequently approved by SACRE and introduced in 2006. It was reviewed in 2011 -12 and re-adopted in 2012.

Monitoring standards and provision

3. In the spring of 2013 a questionnaire was sent to all schools asking for information about strengths and areas for development in RE. Sixteen schools completed the questionnaire, compared with fifteen in 2007/8 (the last time a similar survey was sent out). This is approximately one fifth of the maintained schools in the Borough. 12 were community schools and 4 were VA schools (which are able to follow their own syllabus for RE). 13 were primary schools, one secondary and two were special schools. Four schools which completed the questionnaire in 2007/8 did so again in 2012/13.
4. Key strengths and areas for development, in relation to the teaching and learning of RE, identified by schools are shown in the table below, with those identified in 2007/8 also shown for comparison. Figures in brackets show the number of schools identifying these areas.

RE	Strengths	Areas for development
2012/13	Cross-curricular links (8) Links with people and places of faith (9) Links to PSHE and the Rights Respecting Schools programme (5)	Cross-curricular links (2) Links with people & places of faith (4) Training (non-specific) 5 Assessment (7) Literacy/oracy (4) Links with parents (4) Curriculum coverage (3) Challenge for pupils (1)
2007/08	Curriculum breadth and cross	Cross curricular links (5)

	curricular links (9) Use of parents and community links (4) Subject knowledge (4) Schemes of work (3)	Community / faith links (5) Training (non-specific) (2) Assessment (6) Challenge of pupils (2) Resources (5)
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Complaints

5. No complaints concerning RE were received during the year

Methods of Teaching, Choice of Materials and Teacher Training

6. Advice and support for teachers of RE is offered on an as-needed basis by an external RE consultancy service engaged by the local authority.

Collective Worship

7. No new advice on collective worship was given by SACRE to either the LA or the schools during the year. 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.
8. No complaints regarding collective worship in the community schools of Wandsworth were referred to SACRE during the year.
9. In the spring of 2013 a questionnaire was sent to all schools asking for information about strengths and areas for development in relation to collective worship. Key strengths and areas for development, in relation to collective worship, identified by schools are shown in the table below, with those identified in 2007/8 also shown for comparison. Figures in brackets show the number of schools identifying these areas.

Collective Worship	Strengths	Areas for development
2012/13	Celebrate Festivals (6) Strong Christian content (6 – mostly, though not exclusively, CofE and RC schools) Multi-faith aspects (4) Links to curriculum themes (4) Links to school values and the Rights Respecting Schools programme (4)	Developing multi-faith elements (7) Strong Christian content (5) Pupil input (3) Staff input (3) Resources (including visitors) (3) Working with other schools (1)
2007/08	Use of parents and other adults	Pupil participation (4)

	(4) Pupil participation (4)	Inter-faith development (4) Christian content (2)
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Composition of SACRE, Attendance and the focus of meetings

10. Currently, representation is good from the local authority, faith communities and teachers. Representation is made from most faith communities, with the exceptions of the Sikh faiths.

11. Content of meetings

(i) Over the course of the past 12 months Wandsworth SACRE has discussed at its meetings a number of important topics which are of relevance not just to SACRE but also to the wider community.

(ii) Wandsworth SACRE has discussed police engagement with faith groups with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Govindia emphasising the long history and good relationships which exist between the communities and faith groups in Wandsworth, and between those groups and the police and the Council.

(iii) In October 2013 SACRE held a joint meeting with the Wandsworth Multi Faith Group. This has become an annual event and gives an opportunity for there to be debate and discussion on a number of topics relevant to both groups. At this meeting there was a discussion on the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and the role religious leaders have in supporting young people within their communities. A Faith Group "Health Check" form had been produced with the aim of enabling faith leaders and those with responsibilities for young people to assess what within their group/organisation was being done well and what areas may need future development. SACRE has also received briefings on a number of community engagement events all aimed at helping local communities access information about what services and events were going on in their area.

(iv) SACRE members have also been actively encouraged to bring to the attention of the education leader for their faith details of such events as Faith Direct Week and the Accord Inclusive Schools Award 2014. Faith Direct provides the opportunity for small groups from schools across Wandsworth to learn more about a particular faith from a person of that faith. Since its inception this event has become very popular with schools, and SACRE members have provided some of the faith representation. The Accord Inclusive Schools Award is presented to the school which in the view of the organisers has done the most to promote inclusion, cohesion and the growth of understanding, particularly on the grounds of religion and belief.

(v) SACRE has also discussed in some detail three important documents published during the course of 2013, which are in many ways complimentary to one another in the way religious education is taught in our schools.

(vi) The first of these documents is the Ofsted Report “Releasing the Potential” which highlighted a number of concerns Ofsted has in the way RE is taught in schools and the level of resources made available. The report also stated that recent changes to education policy was having a negative impact on the provision of RE in some schools and on the capacity of local authorities and SACRE’s to carry out their statutory responsibilities to monitor and support it.

(vii) The second important publication was the report “A Review of Religious Education in England – National Curriculum Framework”. Wandsworth SACRE considered this document in some detail as in many ways it went to the heart of much of what was needed both nationally and locally to raise standards and quality in terms of curriculum development for RE, and also the way it was taught.

(viii) “The Truth Unmasked” is a report arising from an inquiry undertaken by the all parliamentary group on religious education. Again Wandsworth SACRE considered this report and its recommendations in some detail, and in particular a recommendation about local authorities needing to ensure SACRE’s had sufficient resources to enable them to (i) Provide high quality RE support for their schools, (ii) monitor the quality of provision and staffing of RE schools and (iii) develop networks to share good practice in all schools in their area.

(ix) Wandsworth SACRE has also considered a national report on the responsibilities of school governors for religious education. This report highlighted a number of important matters and SACRE agreed that the Council should be asked to develop a workshop for governors at which these issues could be discussed in more detail. SACRE also asked for these workshops to be widened to include both trainee and qualified teachers.

Links with other bodies

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

Professional and Administrative Support

13. SACRE meetings are clerked by a Committee Secretary from Wandsworth Council. Wandsworth Council’s Head of Curriculum, Professional, Governor and Leadership Development attends and participates in meetings. Specialist RE professional support for SACRE is provided by an external consultant.

Finance

14. The annual budget for support for RE in 2009/10 was £4,000. This funded the external consultancy for schools and SACRE, purchase of publications, NASACRE membership and other incidental expenses.

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

15. The overall picture at GCSE is positive, with above national average attainment maintained in GCSE Short Course results and the upwards trend in GCSE Full Course results bringing them above national average for the first time. However, GCE 'A' level results have fallen slightly from the 2012 level and dipped slightly below the national average. Further details are provided in the Appendix to this report.

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SACRE 30 JUNE 2014 – Appendix to Annual Report

STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATIONS IN 2013

Background

1. In 2011 results improved, with GCSE short course and A level results being above national averages and GCSE full course results rising to very close to the national average. This appeared to be as a result of a combination of improved teaching and more strategic exam entry policies by schools. In 2012 GCSE full course results continued to rise gently and GCSE short course results were maintained at 2011 levels, but A level results dropped significantly.

2013 results - summary

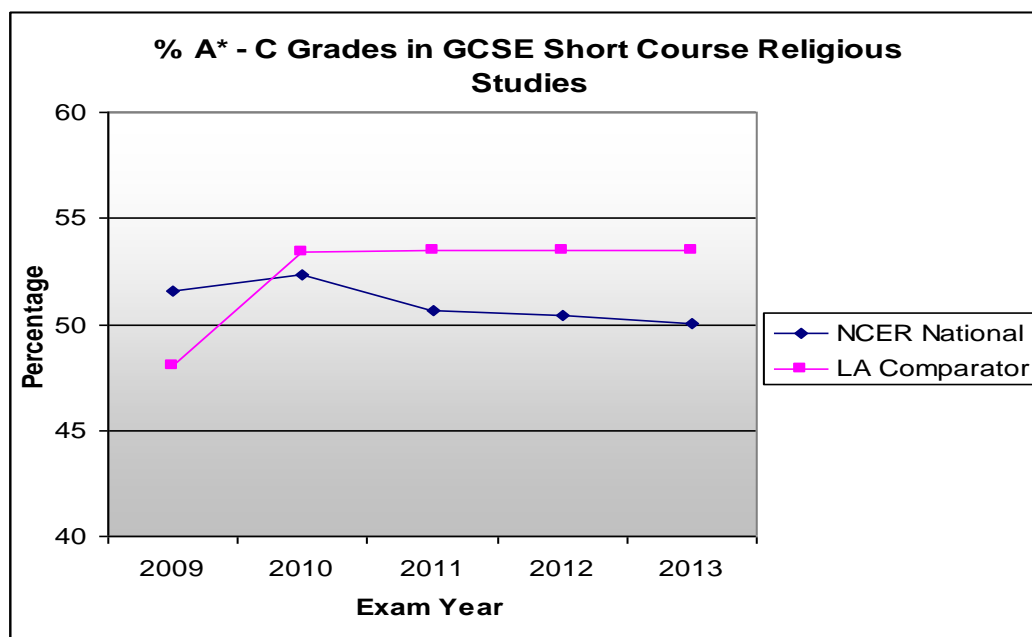
2. In 2013 the overall picture at GCSE is positive, with above national average attainment maintained in GCSE Short Course results and the upwards trend in GCSE Full Course results bringing them above national average for the first time. However, GCE 'A' level results have fallen slightly from the 2012 level and dipped slightly below the national average. Results are shown below.

GCSE results in Wandsworth schools

3. Short course GCSE (grades A* - C) results. The 2012 pass rate was maintained, contrasting with a small drop in the national average.

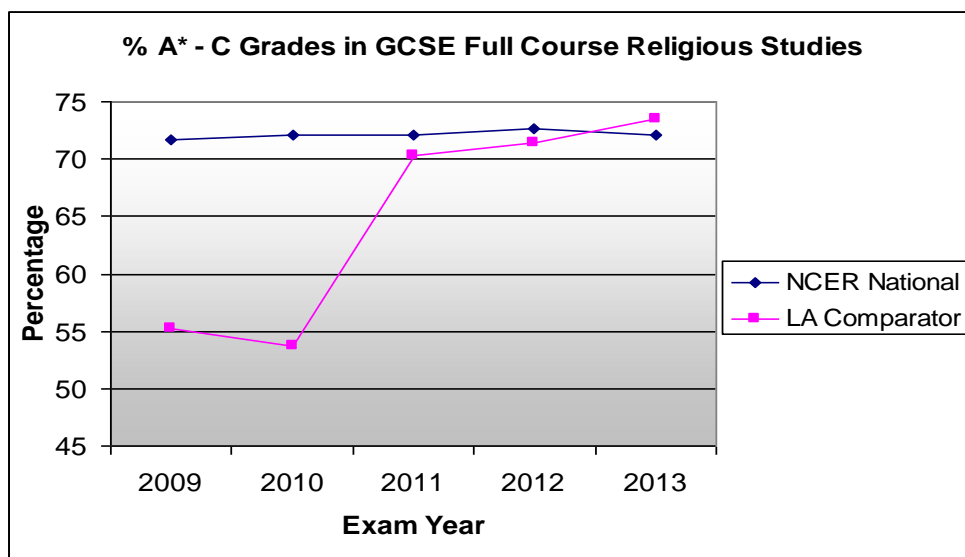
Centre	Entries					%A* - C				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NCER National	218159	205040	188067	166797	148757	51.6	52.3	50.7	50.4	50.0
LA Comparator	741	801	785	858	892	48.0	53.4	53.5	53.5	53.5
ARK Putney Academy	144	140	123	107	100	42.4	37.1	34.1	36.4	26.0
Ashcroft Technology Academy	153	160	76	76	101	75.8	81.3	51.3	71.1	61.4
Battersea Park School	37	44	107	100	106	37.8	56.8	31.8	22.0	37.7
Burntwood (GM)	0	222	205	239	241		81.1	82.4	82.4	80.1
Chestnut Grove	116	112	103	125	108	33.6	27.7	42.7	34.4	33.3
Ernest Bevin	155	155	122	164	167	67.1	61.9	59.8	53.7	50.3
Garratt Park	0	1	0	0	0		0.0			
Graveney School	57	37	44	44	42	35.1	32.4	40.9	34.1	64.3
John Paul II (GM)	0	0	3	0	0			0.0		
Nightingale School	0	1	0	0	0		0.0			
Saint John Bosco College	0	0	0	3	17				33.3	35.3
Salesian College (GM)	0	2	2	0	0		0.0	50.0		
Southfields (GM)	108	85	0	0	0	37.0	37.6			

St Cecilia's, Church of England School	124	2	0	0	0	62.9	0.0			
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4. Full course GCSE (grades A* - C) results. The Borough average rose to 71.4%, bringing it above the national average, for the first time in five years.

Centre	Entries					%A* - C				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NCER National	149800	155424	178634	193455	210514	71.7	72.1	72.1	72.6	72.6
LA Comparator	505	648	876	781	769	55.2	53.7	70.3	71.4	73.3
ARK Putney Academy	7	1	11	8	0	85.7	100.0	90.9	100.0	
Ashcroft Technology Academy	0	0	91	97	85			93.4	89.7	72.2
Battersea Park School	16	23	0	0	0	31.3	17.4			
Burntwood (GM)	16	27	57	30	29	87.5	81.5	71.9	76.7	93.3
Chestnut Grove	2	1	10	0	24	100.0	100.0	50.0		79.2
Ernest Bevin	0	1	42	0	0		100.0	100.0		
Graveney School	191	213	209	201	204	78.0	74.6	92.3	94.0	95.1
John Paul II (GM)	78	84	53	0	0	28.2	25.0	71.7		
Saint John Bosco College	0	0	0	143	114				49.0	67.5
Salesian College (GM)	120	95	94	0	0	51.7	38.9	52.1		
Southfields (GM)	67	67	171	156	165	19.4	4.5	25.1	40.4	41.1
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	8	136	138	146	148	75.0	72.8	79.7	80.8	79.2



A level results in Wandsworth schools

5. A level A* – C results dropped slightly in 2013, falling below the national average. However, as for the past four years, all students entered in every school achieved an A* - E grade.

Centre	Entries					%A* - C				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NCER National	11520	11462	12501	12692	12913	78.7	75.9	78.9	78.3	78.1
LA Comparator	42	51	55	71	85	73.8	78.4	90.9	78.9	76.5
Ashcroft Technology Academy	12	12	8	4	17	58.3	83.3	100.0	100.0	94.1
Burntwood (GM)	7	11	17	21	23	100.0	90.9	76.5	71.4	65.2
Ernest Bevin	11	9	11	14	7	63.6	100.0	90.9	71.4	42.9
Graveney School	15	9	11	15	19	93.3	77.8	100.0	93.3	89.5
South Thames College	0	0	2	2	0			100.0	100.0	
Southfields (GM)	9	8	4	0	1	33.3	50.0	100.0		100.0
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	0	14	4	16	13		71.4	100.0	81.3	100.0
St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College	40	54	57	51	57	60.0	85.2	86.0	74.5	70.2

