Bexley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Annual Report for the academic year 2011/2012





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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to be able to introduce the Bexley SACRE Annual Report for the academic year 2011 – 2012.

The SACRE met on four occasions during the year and, with the limited resources available to us, yet again we seem to have been able to achieve much.

Our "Making Faith Visible" DVD is now in all the Borough's schools as a teaching resource for RE and we issued a Spiritual Development guide to all our schools also. At our request an RE area has been established on the online teaching resource, Fronter. We conducted a review of Collective Worship in our schools and we have for the first time a development plan to act as a framework and focus for our work, which we prepared following self assessment using the NASACRE tool. But most importantly, with the help of our new adviser, Terry O'Dea, the Agreed Syllabus Conference has convened to embark on a review of the Bexley Agreed Syllabus for RE, with the intention of making it more accessible to teaching staff, especially the non-specialists.

We were pleased to receive a number of invitations to visit and participate in a broad range of local and national events and Forums. And we heard about the community work one of our local churches is undertaking.

We were delighted once again to be able to welcome the excellent GCSE, AS and A level results achieved by students in Bexley in 2011. However, we were concerned to see a significant (36%) decline in entries for the GCSE Short Course in Bexley, which mirrored the decline reported nationally by the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. However, in Bexley that decline was almost matched by an increase in Full Course entries. This change is repeated again in 2012, where the Bexley cohort for the Short Course saw another significant reduction, but was mirrored an increase in Full Course entries. The reasons for this trend are not clear, and whilst it is welcome we may need to discuss it at a future meeting to try and ascertain why it is happening.

We maintained a watching brief on developments with the English Baccalaureate and any impact it may have on RE. We further noted with interest the formation of the All Party Parliamentary Group that has been established to safeguard the provision of RE in our schools. Also, we expect the outcome of the Religious Education Council's review of RE, to run in parallel to the review of the National Curriculum in England, will provide us with some food for thought later.

In this report you will see that in 2012 Bexley's students continue to achieve excellent results at GCSE, AS and A Level. Every year it pleases me, on behalf of the SACRE, to be able congratulate our students on their results,

and this year is no different. The Borough's RE Heads of Department and their teaching staff also merit a thank you for the excellent results they have achieved in what is an uncertain time for their subject.

Looking ahead we will: continue to monitor and, where necessary, correspond on and debate any relevant RE matters, be they of local or national relevance; continue with our self assessment; and, follow the work of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

In conclusion, I extend my thanks to the SACRE members who have departed, with a special mention of thanks to our long standing RE Adviser, Denise Chaplin who left in December 2011: Denise's experience, knowledge and expertise made our meetings and work interesting and fruitful, and without her we would have achieved so much less. I also extend a warm welcome to our new members

This year we have achieved a great deal with very few resources and have a busy plan going forward into 2012-13. None of this would be possible without the dedication and input of our members.

R. Geles

Cllr. Richard Gillespie Chairman of Bexley SACRE

1.2 OVERVIEW

Bexley SACRE met at the Civic Offices, Bexleyheath on four occasions during the past year:

8 November 201114 December 20117 March 201225 June 2012

All the Borough's schools now have two new teaching resources for RE – a copy of our "Making Faith Visible" DVD and our Spiritual Development guide, and we have established an RE area on Bexley Fronter, the online teaching resource.

Following a review of Collective Worship in our schools we are pleased to report that Collective Worship appears to be inclusive, varied and of benefit to students, and we have concluded that its provision is adequate. However, we may undertake further enquiries in 2013, to ensure daily worship is being maintained by the majority and is not being marginalised or reduced.

We are part way through a self assessment process, from which evolved a development plan to guide our work, and the Agreed Syllabus Conference has the significant task, with the guidance of our Adviser, of conducting a review of the Bexley Agreed Syllabus for RE.

We remain concerned about the impact of the English Baccalaureate on RE, but were delighted once again to be able to welcome the excellent GCSE, GCE A and AS level results achieved by students in Bexley in 2011. We continued to maintain a watching brief on developments with the English Baccalaureate and any impact thereof, and noted with interest the formation of the All Party Parliamentary Group that has been formed to safeguard the provision of RE in our schools, and the commencement of the Religious Education Council's review of RE.

This annual report has been signed off by the SACRE membership. It has been sent to those people and organisations listed in Appendix B and made available to all Head Teachers, the RE department heads and RE coordinators in all the Borough's schools.

The report has also been added to the SACRE page on the London Borough of Bexley's website: http://www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4889

Bexley SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs





SECTION 2: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS

2.1 The locally Agreed Syllabus

The Bexley Agreed Syllabus was launched in 2007 and by September 2008 it was expected that all schools would be fully implementing it. It may be found online on: http://www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4889

SACRE members are confident that the Syllabus is fully embedded into the local curriculum and we have no reason to believe that schools are not finding it to be a useful framework for the teaching of Religious Education in the Borough. Feedback from teachers on the SACRE indicates that the Syllabus is well known in their schools and that teachers have well established plans in schools that enable the Syllabus to be taught.

Nevertheless, we were always mindful of our statutory duty to ensure that the Syllabus is reviewed every five years, and the SACRE and the local authority has been busy preparing for the fact that an Agreed Syllabus Conference would have to be convened by November 2012. In November 2011 the SACRE was consulted on proposals for the initial planning, research and timetabling that would lead to a review of the Syllabus. We welcomed the fact that the local authority would be undertaking research on legislative and curriculum changes insofar as the teaching of RE was concerned, and we commented on a questionnaire to be sent to the RE Co-ordinators in all schools as part of the evidence gathering process. This was duly followed by a Syllabus Review/Assessment Session early in 2012, all of which was used to lead to an informed decision about the scope of the review.

At all meetings in the period of this report the SACRE discussed the planning for the review and, when assessing the questionnaire responses and evidence from the feedback session, the SACRE was clear that the Agreed Syllabus has a lot of strengths, but there was a need for a re-examination of certain aspects, for greater flexibility to enable teachers to tailor the learning and to help them better recognise the aims and purposes of RE, and for a focus on more varied and improved resources to support it. Last year we reported that the SACRE recognised that there may be opportunities to extend the scope of pupils' learning through greater use of fieldwork and contact with religious and belief groups in the local community, and an examination of the opportunities will form part of the review process also.

With the SACRE's agreement, and on the recommendation of the local authority, an Agreed Syllabus Conference was convened in July 2012. Comprising representatives of the SACRE, the local authority and teachers who are not SACRE members, the Conference has agreed its working methods and, on current plans, proposes to submit to the local authority in Summer 2013 a revised Agreed Syllabus for adoption. This deadline is flexible however, as the Conference recognises the substantial commitment that is required from already busy people to deliver a revised Syllabus.

2.2 Standards in RE

The SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of RE in Bexley schools and the implementation of the Bexley Agreed Syllabus.

The number of Academies in the Borough is expanding rapidly, and as a consequence their relationship with the education authority changes. The SACRE notes the Department for Education advice that, in accordance with their funding agreement, where an Academy has not been designated with a religious character the Academy must ensure that religious education is given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the requirements for locally Agreed Syllabuses. Given this, in 2011-12 we ensured there is appropriate Academy representation on the SACRE to enable us to develop closer relationships.

In the light of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate (E. Bacc.) we continue to review its impact on RE nationally and locally, and seek to act on any local adverse impacts. No adverse impacts are apparent to date, but if any arise we will investigate: we have excellent teaching of RE in the Borough and do not wish to see this marginalised and undermined.

Our schools now have the excellent Making Faith Visible DVD as an additional teaching resource. We also issued to our schools new guidance on spiritual development and on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. When distributing the spiritual development guidance we also took the opportunity to include some suggestions and ideas for classroom activity to observe Holocaust Memorial Day every January.

We hope that all of these additional resources will help to maintain our school's high standards in RE. We had hoped to supplement these further with a "Bexley Faith Booklet" but, as is reported later, we were unable to secure funding for this project.

2.3 RE in an uncertain world

Allied to our concerns regarding the E. Bacc. we considered at some length John Keast's excellent keynote speech to the October 2011 Annual Meeting of the London and South East SACREs, alongside extracts from his paper "Religious Education in England – A Unique Opportunity and Challenge" published that same month. We shared John's views on difficulties with the new curriculum and the E. Bacc. and the difficulties facing SACREs in the monitoring of activity in their schools, but were heartened by his positivity for the future for RE and SACREs, if everyone with an interest in the subject pulled together.

2.4 Teacher training and teaching materials

The aforementioned DVD and guidance has been added to teaching resources and, as part of the planning for the review of the Agreed Syllabus, a

number of training opportunities and requests were received and which will be considered by our Adviser.

At our request an RE area has been established on the Bexley Fronter online teaching resource.

2.5 RE and the English Baccalaureate

Thankfully, our own concerns, and those of others nationally, that the E. Bacc. is marginalising RE have not been borne out in Bexley. Across all four GCSE courses candidate entry numbers remain static, and although there is an emerging trend of reducing numbers of candidates for the Short Course, this is balanced by a very similar increase in Full Course entries.

Should this local Short Course/Full Course trend continue, whilst it is not a concern, we may wish to investigate it to see why it is happening.

A number of commentators suggest that it is the Short Course that will suffer as RE becomes marginalised by the E. Bacc., although we concur with the Religious Education Council of England and Wales opinion that any impact is not apparent in 2012.

We will continue to maintain a watching brief on the various campaigns and debates on this important matter. We will await with interest developments from the All Party Parliamentary Group that has been established to focus on safeguarding the provision of RE in our schools. We look forward to considering the Religious Education Council's review of RE that is running in parallel to the review of the National Curriculum in England, and participating in a proposed consultation on the review. We will also await with interest the reform of the Key Stage 4 exams announced by the Secretary of State for Education.

As mentioned in section 2.2, we have excellent teaching of RE in the Borough and do not wish to see this undermined by the E. Bacc. or by other developments in the curriculum.

2.6 Examination results

The Religious Studies examination results for Bexley and nationally for 2012, with comparison data for previous years, are summarised in paragraphs 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 below and are shown in more detail in Appendix D. We will discuss these in our meeting at the end of 2012.

There is a report in the next paragraph on the discussions the SACRE membership had about the 2011 results.

2.6.1 Bexley Religious Studies GCSE, AS and A Level results 2011

As we do each year, the SACRE discussed Religious Studies exam entries and results for the Borough's students. The SACRE was pleased to see that

in 2011 Bexley students continued to maintain the excellent results of recent years and noted the trends in examination entries nationally and locally.

We noted that, in line with the trend for England, there was an increase in candidates for the GCSE Full Course and A level, and a reduction in GCSE Short Course entries. In contrast to the trend in England, however, the number of AS level entries in Bexley fell.

We were advised that the Religious Education Council for England had expressed concern about the fall in the number of candidates nationally taking the GCSE Short Course examination (the compulsory minimum requirement) and that they had suggested this was as a direct result of the exclusion of the subject from the English Baccalaureate (E. Bacc.). Having recognised that the number of GCSE Short Course candidates in Bexley had fallen sharply – down 36% on 2010, and the fewest candidates for six years – the SACRE felt that it was too early to suggest this was evidence of "the E. Bacc. effect", particularly when further analysis revealed that the decline in Short Course entries was almost matched by an increase in Full Course candidates.

2.6.2 National Religious Studies GCSE, AS and A Level results 2012²

Taken from data published in Autumn 2012, in the Summer of 2012 431,450 students in England sat a Religious Studies examination, which is a reduction of almost 7,000, or 1.6%, on all entries for 2011.

210,200 students sat the GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (an increase of 15,500 on 2011) and a further 176,187 sat the Short Course GCSE (22,600 less than in 2011). At 26,200 the AS Level entries reversed a three increasing trend, and were down by almost 200 candidates on the previous year. A Level entries increased by 354 to 18,854.

In the 2012 Full Course GCSE 98.3% of all candidates in England gained a pass, representing no change on the pas rate for the previous year. The pass rate at grade A* to C was marginally higher (up 0.3%) than in 2011, however.

From yet another year on year significantly reduced cohort for the Short Course GCSE 92.8% of all candidates achieved a pass, a fall of 0.3% on the previous year. Just over half of all candidates achieved A* to C.

At AS Level 91.5% achieved a pass, slightly improved on the previous year. For A Level, 2012 saw an additional 350 candidates (a 1.9% increase) take the examination with 98.9% gaining a pass – a marginal 0.1% increase on the 2011 pass rate. Just over 55% of students achieved a pass at grades A* to B – a 2% reduction on 2011.

Further details are provided in Appendix D.

² 2012 data is provisional

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¹ In this report all references to "National" results and data refer to England.

2.6.3 Bexley Religious Studies GCSE, A and AS Level results 2012³

2,763 students in Bexley sat a Religious Studies examination in Summer 2012.

2,132 students sat the GCSE Full Course and a further 536 sat the Short Course GCSE. 34 students sat the AS Level exam and there were 61 entries at A Level.

In line with the trend for England, there was an increase in candidates for the Full Course (up 507, or 31.2%). Bexley saw another significant reduction in Short Course entries, halving the 2011 entry rate: the cohort was less than one third of that in 2010. It is notable, though, that the increase in Full Course entries almost mirrored the reduction in Short Course entries, and the evidence suggests that some schools are moving from the Short Course to the Full Course.

In contrast to the trend in England, AS level entries in Bexley increased. Bexley's A level entries saw an 11.6% reduction on 2011.

In the 2012 Full Course GCSE 98% of all candidates gained a pass, down 1.0% on the previous year, and for the first time since 2007, a little below the pass rate for England. 68.4% gained a pass at grade A* to C, which was 6% below the rate for England. Full Course entries increased for the eighth consecutive year.

With entries in Bexley down almost half, the Short Course GCSE had the fewest number of candidates for seven years, and there was a 1.2% drop in the number of entrants achieving a pass, down to 95.1% compared to 96.3% in 2011. However, students in Bexley achieved 5% more A* to C passes than those across England as a whole.

At AS Level entries increased for the first time in four years, with 85% of the candidates achieving a pass, a slight fall on the 2011 rate.

A Level entries in Bexley decreased by 8, or 12%, on 2011. The pass rate was 96.7%, almost 2% lower than in 2011, but just over half of the candidates achieved A* to B marks.

It is most pleasing that Bexley's students continue to achieve excellent results at GCSE, AS and A Level: our students, Heads of RE and subject teachers work very hard to maintain these high levels of achievement, and the SACRE is extremely grateful for this hard work and dedication.

But the SACRE realises that there may be uncertain times ahead for this subject, and will be monitoring closely the impact the introduction of the E. Bacc., and the proposed reform of Key Stage 4 exams, might have on Religious Education studies and examinations in Bexley in the next few years.

³ 2012 data is provisional

However, there is no evidence in Bexley to suggest the E. Bacc. is having an impact – across all four examinations candidate numbers in 2012 exactly matched those for 2011, and reductions in Short Course entries were almost offset entirely by increases in entries for the Full Course.

Religious Education examination results: Bexley, 2007-2012 (2012 data is provisional)

GCSE Full co	GCSE Full course					
	Entries	Passes A* - C	% passes A* - C	All passes A* - G	% all passes A* - G	
2012	2132	1458	68.4	2090	98.0	
2011	1625	1161	71.4	1609	99.0	
2010	1120	829	74.0	1116	99.6	
2009	1010	746	73.4	994	98.4	
2008	823	675	82.0	822	99.9	
2007	730	510	69.9	723	99.0	

^{8&}lt;sup>th</sup> consecutive year that entries have increased.

Pass rate lower than that nationally for the first time in five years.

GCSE Short course					
	Entries	Passes A* - C	% passes A* - C	All passes A* - G	% all passes A* - G
2012	536	299	55.8	510	95.1
2011	1047	593	56.6	1008	96.3
2010	1631	892	54.7	1590	97.5
2009	1417	900	63.5	1395	98.5
2008	1554	932	60.0	1525	98.1
2007	1675	962	57.4	1609	96.1

Second significant fall in the number of candidates -67% reduction in two years - but almost matched by the increase in Full Course entries.

AS Level					
	Entries	Passes A - B	% passes A - B	All passes A - E	% all passes A - E
2012	34	3	8.8	29	85.3
2011	22	5	22.7	19	86.4
2010	27	5	18.5	22	81.5
2009	30	5	16.7	21	70.0
2008	35	17	48.6	31	88.6
2007	31	4	12.9	29	93.5

Reversed falling trend in candidate numbers.

A Level					
	Entries	Passes A* - B	% passes A* - B	All passes A* - E	% all passes A* - E
2012	61	31	50.8	59	96.7
2011	69	29	42.0	68	98.6
2010	58	35	60.3	58	100.0
2009	69	32	46.4	69	100.0
2008	88	43	48.9	87	99.0
2007	73	36	49.3	73	100.0

A* grade introduced in 2010: data for 2007 to 2009 is for A-B and A-E.

2.7 Complaints

No complaints about RE were received by the SACRE this year.

2.8 FOI Requests

As is likely to be the case with most, if not all, SACREs in England we received three Freedom of Information requests from The Mail on Sunday in the period of this report. We responded to these within the required timescales.



SECTION 3: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND PROVISION FOR PUPILS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Monitoring

The SACRE's role is to monitor the quality of Collective Worship in local schools. During the year, and as reported previously, the SACRE agreed to conduct a review. The SACRE wanted to gather information on the extent and scope of the provision of Collective Worship and determine what steps, if any, needed to be taken.

The review was conducted against the background that Collective Worship has been a legal requirement in all schools since 1944, that it is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and the Governors of a school, and must be attended by all pupils every day, unless they are withdrawn by their parents or, if they are in the sixth form, they have withdrawn themselves.

Just under one third of all schools and Academies in the Borough participated in the review survey, and the SACRE is grateful to those who took the time to do so.

On the basis of the review results, the SACRE is pleased to be able to conclude that Collective Worship appears to be inclusive, varied and of benefit to students, although in certain instances daily acts of worship were not taking place as regularly as the law requires.

Provision for, and promotion of, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development – another legal requirement in schools – did not raise any cause for concern.

Given these welcome findings the SACRE has concluded that provision of Collective Worship in the Borough's schools is adequate and that, at this stage, no further work is required to promote it.

However, whilst recognising that there may be constraints and certain difficulties in holding daily acts of worship in a small number of schools, the SACRE nevertheless may undertake further enquiries regarding Collective Worship provision in 2013, to ensure that daily worship is being maintained by the majority and is not being marginalised or reduced.

It did appear to the SACRE that some respondents may not have fully recognised the legal requirements for Collective Worship, or the variety of activities that could be classified as such, and so we distributed to all the Boroughs schools and Academies with a summary of the review findings the 2012 NASACRE and AREIAC paper "Collective Worship Revisted". This paper explains the legal requirements for Collective Worship, identifies the obstacles, considers the potential benefits, exemplifies good practice, and sets out some recommendations for practitioners and policy-makers and was considered to provide an excellent overview and guidelines for our schools and Academies.

3.2 Training and advice

No training for collective worship was offered to schools this year.

3.3 Determinations and complaints

No determinations were applied for, and the SACRE received no formal complaints about collective worship.

SECTION 4: LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

4.1 National

Bexley SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE).

The former Bexley SACRE Consultant RE Adviser has been a former Chair of NASACRE and, for part of the period of this report, was on the NASACRE Executive. She is also a Trustee and Board Member of the RE Council of England and Wales and was Chair of that organisation's RE Celebrations Sub-Committee.

A former member of the Bexley SACRE was also a member of the NASACRE Executive.

The SACRE received a number of invitations to national conferences and seminars and was represented at the London and South East SACRES AGM in October 2011 and the NASACRE AGM in May 2012.

4.2 Local

Bexley SACRE works in collaboration with the local Diocesan Boards.

The CRIBS group (Christian Resources in Bexley Schools) is represented on the SACRE, as has the Bexley Multi Faith Forum and the Thamesmead Inter Faith Forum for part of this report period.

During the year SACRE members received regular updates on the work of the Bexley Multi Faith Forum and the Thamesmead Inter Faith Forum, and received invitations to a number of their events, Inter Faith week activities and school seminars. Similarly, the SACRE received a number of invitations to events organised by the Crayford Mosque and the Bexley Bangladeshi Women's Association.



SECTION 5: BEXLEY SACRE'S OWN ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Professional and administrative support

Until December 2011 an external Consultant RE Adviser supported the work of the SACRE. Thereafter, an Adviser employed by the local authority now assists with and guides the SACRE's work.

Meetings are attended by a senior officer from the local authority's Directorate of Education and Social Care and an officer of the Committee Services and Scrutiny team of the local authority clerks the SACRE meetings and acts as the point of contact for individual members.

5.2 Development of the SACRE

5.2.1 SACRE self-assessment

This year the SACRE has commenced a programme of self evaluation using the re-launched NASACRE Reporting and Evaluating Toolkit.

In March 2012 we self-assessed on the section "Management of the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders". Considering ourselves to be "Established" for the seven sub-categories we did nevertheless identify a number of opportunities to improve on those assessments.

As a precursor to working to improve the SACRE's provision of each subcategory, we prepared and agreed a development plan for the 18 months through to 31 December 2013. Linked to the five dimensions of the self evaluation tool the development plan sets out our aspiration to achieve "Advanced" practice in all dimensions. The development plan is reproduced at Appendix C.

We will return to other sections of the Toolkit when our meeting agendas allow.

5.2.2 SACRE training

Despite financial constraints, SACRE members are encouraged to attend national and regional events and to report back to subsequent SACRE meetings. SACRE members also discuss any available annual analysis of the previous year's SACRE reports, and compare the national picture with the local context.

As part of the induction of new SACRE members, each individual is sent a welcome pack and, where they wish this to be the case, they can be allocated an experienced SACRE member as a 'buddy' to support them through their first meeting.

5.3 Finance

The SACRE receives no independent funding, although we are grateful to have access to a small allocation from the local authority's curriculum development budget for a limited number of conference delegate fees and our NASACRE membership.

As reported in the next section, we were not successful in securing our bid to the Westhill Foundation Trustees and the National Association of SACRE's for our proposed "Bexley Faith Booklet" project.

5.4 Membership and Constitution

Our membership is strong, although we now have a number of vacancies in Group A which we are actively pursuing to fill.

Given that the SACRE reviewed its Constitution in Summer 2010, and there were no issues that required further review this year, the Constitution has remained unchanged.

SECTION 6: OTHER WORK OF THE SACRE

6.1 "Making Faith Visible"

We reported last year on the success of our "Making Faith Visible" project and this sub-section provides some feedback on its conclusion.

"Making Faith Visible" involved twelve Year 8 students from three secondary schools in the London Borough of Bexley conducting brief interviews with young people of the six main faith communities within and outside the Borough. The interviews were recorded on to a DVD to provide an informative RE resource for use in the Borough's schools.

In late 2011 feedback was sought from the Borough's schools and Academies, and although the response was not high, the comments were nevertheless encouraging. All but one of the teachers who replied had viewed the DVD and all who had viewed it rated it either excellent, very good or good, adding that it was either very useful or useful as a teaching aid – there were no adverse comments in this regard. Just under half of the respondents had already used the DVD in the classroom and said it was easy to fit into their teaching syllabus. About a quarter said they would be likely to use the DVD at some point.

As part of its review, the Agreed Syllabus Conference will look to see how the DVD might be linked to the Bexley Agreed Syllabus.

6.2 Bexley Faith Booklet

In response to a small number of requests for a transcript of the DVD interviews, the SACRE duly agreed to production of a transcript, subject to available funding. The SACRE was of the opinion that a transcript would add to the usefulness of the DVD, and may assist teachers with lesson planning, and also may prove useful in other lessons, such as English and literacy.

In developing this proposal the SACRE agreed to produce an educational pack to enhance the local RE learning and teaching experience for the Borough's pupils and teachers. The pack was to comprise a booklet containing a transcript of interviews, an overview of the religions featured and some history and photographs of relevant religious buildings in the Borough. At the same time the opportunity was to be taken to re-issue the "Making Faith Visible" DVD as part of the pack, and the entire educational package was to be promoted more widely to the Greenwich, Bromley and other London and South East SACREs.

To facilitate this, the SACRE submitted of a bid for NASACRE / Westhill Foundation funding in 2012-13. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful and without funding, the project has been set aside.

6.3 Community activities

The SACRE is always keen to hear about community activities and received a presentation in June 2012 from a Churchwarden whose Rector was keen for that particular Church to expand its presence in the communities it serves, and the Churchwarden had been charged with connecting with organisations where their respective work overlaps. As a result, it is possible that the SACRE may be invited to assist in the development of a local scheme to support underachieving students in becoming more employable: owing to their varied faith and strong community links, the SACRE was considered to be well placed to facilitate the conversations needed for such a project.

6.4 Bexley SACRE web page

During the year the SACRE web page was reviewed, revised and republished (http://www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4889).

APPENDIX A

THE COMPOSITION OF THE BEXLEY SACRE

The composition of the SACRE for the 2011/2012 academic year was as follows:

GROUP A (CHRISTIAN AND OTHER FAITHS)

Pastor Sina Akinseye Miss Tina Crowley* Miss Carole Farley Miss Máire Quinn

Mrs Faozia Rashid since August 2011
Prof. Harbhajan Singh until February 2012

Mrs Di Sprowles

Ms Sandra Teacher interim basis

Mr Paul Weston

Mr Rathuge Wimalasekera*

GROUP B (CHURCH OF ENGLAND)

Mrs Catherine Kennedy Mrs Dorothy Jones (Vice Chairman) Mr Alex Tear since December 2011

GROUP C (TEACHERS IN THE AUTHORITY)

Ms Elysa Alton

Mrs Jeannie Watts

Ms Amy Ashford since March 2011 Mrs Marianne Chambers since May 2011

Miss Hayley Gibbs since November 2010
Ms Frances Humphries since January 2011

^{*} these two members serve on a job share basis

GROUP D (THE AUTHORITY)

12
12
2
2

Councillor Richard Gillespie (Chairman)

Councillor David Hurt since May 2012

Mr Tim Rice

Councillor Ray Sams since May 2012
Councillor James Spencer until May 2012
Councillor Colin Tandy until May 2012
Councillor Chris Taylor until May 2012
Councillor Simon Windle since May 2012

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mr Jay Allnutt Mr Brian Rodmell

<u>SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS</u> (other than Councillor substitutes)

Dr Fazlur Rashid Group A

Attendance by members during the 2011/2012 academic year was as follows:

Possible	Actual
4	2
4	1
4	1
4	3
4	2
3	3
4	3
4	0
-	1
4	2
share basis	
4	4
2	2
4	0
4	2
4	2
4	2
4	3
4	1
4	2
1	1
1	1
	3
	2
-	4
- -	1
-	4
	1
	0
	3
	3
1	1
4	2
4	2
3	3
	4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 share basis 4 4 4 4 4 1 1 3 3 4 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

-	26	-		

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL REPORT DISTRIBUTION

All schools and Academies in the London Borough of Bexley

Director of Education and Social Care, London Borough of Bexley

Elected Members, London Borough of Bexley

Free Church Federal Council

National Association of SACREs (NASACRE)

Professional Associations of teachers in the London Borough of Bexley

Rochester Diocese

Southwark Archdiocese

Southwark Diocesan Board of Education

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Bexley SACRE Development Plan

1 June 2012 to 31 December 2013

A Development Plan linked to the five dimensions of the SACRE self evaluation tool with the aspiration to achieve "Advanced" practice in all five dimensions.

This plan identifies key issues and actions that form the SACRE's priorities through to 31 December 2013. It has been prepared with due consideration to:

- a) the main function of a SACRE which is to advise the local authority on matters related to RE, which follows the locally Agreed Syllabus, and on Collective Worship in schools; and,
- b) a SACRE's broad role to support good RE and Collective Worship within its schools.

To this end a SACRE must:

- Ensure that the local authority regularly reviews its Agreed Syllabus for RE
- Consider applications from a Head Teacher that the school be released from the requirement for Collective Worship to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"
- · Publish an Annual Report on its work
- Consider any complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and Collective Worship that are referred to it by the local authority

And a SACRE may also:

- Advise the local authority on the teaching of RE in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitor the provision and delivery of Collective Worship in schools
- Monitor the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Advise the local authority on the provision of training for teachers in RE

Key element 1: Standards	and quality of provision	on of RE		
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria
To support schools staff as they implement the Agreed Syllabus	Review of the Agreed Syllabus (see separate Action, below)	SACRE Adviser SACRE Clerk	In progress	All relevant organisations consulted and research conducted to inform review process
	Training provided for RE teachers	SACRE Adviser	Lifetime of Plan	Training delivered as required
2. To monitor GCSE, AS and A Level results in the Borough's secondary schools	Provide data for SACRE and Annual Report	Clerk LB Bexley Policy and Performance Team	November 2012 and November 2013	Data provided, with analysis for November meetings
3. To promote use of the "Making Faith Visible" DVD and develop proposals to expand the success of the project	Develop the Bexley Faith Booklet proposal and seek funding for the project	Clerk SACRE	In progress	Funding received and booklet prepared and published with a copy of the DVD
4. To develop processes for gathering feedback from RE Coordinators, schools and Academies, pupils and parents on the quality of the content and provision of RE	Review options and implement favoured approach to information gathering	Clerk SACRE	June 2013	Feedback received, reviewed and, if necessary, actions proposed to address any issues, possibly through Agreed Syllabus review process
5. To produce a Fronter website of resources supporting the delivery in schools by teachers of the Bexley SACRE Agreed Syllabus	Produce Bexley SACRE Fronter Room with appropriate navigation to folders of resources Communicate URL, purpose and usage to all Schools and SACRE members	SACRE Adviser	Dec 2012	Website populated by AS School produced resources uploaded for Bexley schools to share Links to all relevant organisations

Key element 2: Effectivene	Key element 2: Effectiveness of the Bexley Agreed Syllabus					
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria		
To ensure the Agreed Syllabus is reviewed every five years	Review of the Agreed Syllabus in 2012-13	SACRE Adviser SACRE Clerk	In progress	All relevant organisations consulted and research conducted to inform review process		
				Clear outcomes from review process to support the Agreed Syllabus Conference		
	Convene Agreed Syllabus Conference	SACRE Adviser SACRE Clerk	November 2012	Conference convened and mutually agrees revisions to Agreed Syllabus		
	Publish Agreed Syllabus	Agreed Syllabus Conference SACRE Adviser SACRE Clerk	December 2013	Agreed Syllabus is fit for purpose, approved by the ASC and SACRE and published within agreed timescale		
2. To produce at least annually an update and further guidance for teachers to retain the relevance of the Agreed Syllabus	Publish annually	SACRE Adviser	~May	Teachers informed and supported and Agreed Syllabus relevance maintained		

Key element 3: Collective Worship					
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria	
To have a balanced and realistic overview of the provision in Bexley's schools	Conduct a review of Collective Worship in the Borough's schools	Clerk SACRE	In progress	Review findings accurately inform the SACRE on provision SACRE and LB Bexley acts on and resolves any concerns that arise	
	Submit review findings to all Borough's schools and seek their feedback	Clerk SACRE	September 2012	Feedback received is acted upon and resolved promptly	
2. To be fully equipped to deal with a request from a school for a determination	Good understanding of SACRE's responsibilities	SACRE Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Framework for responding to requests effectively and promptly	

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria
To keep members informed and involve them in decision making	Hold three SACRE meetings each academic year	Clerk Chairman SACRE Adviser	Termly	Meetings held and effective outcomes achieved
2. To develop the SACRE's work	Undertake self evaluation using SACRE RETool	SACRE	Complete by 31 December 2013	Identify areas for improvement with aspiration to achieve "Advanced" practice
	Prepare a SACRE Development Plan	Clerk SACRE	Plan to cover the period 1 June 2012 to 31 December 2013	Development Plan approved by SACRE and all objectives achieved
	SACRE fully supported by LB Bexley	SACRE Adviser LB Bexley	Lifetime of Plan	SACRE has sufficient resources to carry out its priorities and achieve its objectives
3. To report annually on the work of the SACRE	Prepare a draft report for SACRE November meetings	Clerk Chairman SACRE Adviser	November 2012 November 2013	Report completed on time, approved by the SACRE and submitted to the relevant authorities within their timescales
4. To maintain a strong and representative membership	Keep membership under review and fill vacancies as soon as possible	Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Limited number of vacancies to ensure SACRE can work effectively
				Good attendance at meeting

Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria
5. To improve induction and training opportunities for members	Review procedures for induction and implement a "buddy" system	Clerk SACRE Adviser	Lifetime of Plan	Members receive induction and training that meets their needs
	Review availability and cost of national training scheme(s)	Clerk SACRE Adviser	Lifetime of Plan	Members receive induction and training that meets their needs
6. To send a SACRE delegate to NASACRE's AGM and London and SE SACRE's Conference	At least one delegate attends and reports back to the SACRE	SACRE	Lifetime of Plan	SACRE informed about developments in RE
7. To maintain effective and informed liaison with the Borough's Academies	Maintain Academy representation on the SACRE	Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Membership maintained
8. To review costs of all desirable activities to fulfil SACRE's responsibilities to the highest standards	Cost a full CPD and monitoring provision SACRE member training	SACRE Adviser Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	School monitoring sufficient Teacher CPD sufficient Teaching quality and outcomes increase Sufficient CPD provided Sufficient SACRE member

Key element 5: Contribution of SACRE to promoting community cohesion						
Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Success Criteria		
To ensure membership reflects the religious diversity of the local community	Keep membership under review and fill vacancies as soon as possible	Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Limited number of vacancies to ensure SACRE can work effectively		
	Greater use of co-optees where a need for co-option is highlighted	SACRE Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Candidates identified and appointed		
2. To ensure SACRE is aware of relevant events and is represented, where possible	Reports to SACRE meetings, correspondence received by Chairman and Clerk	Clerk Chairman SACRE	Lifetime of Plan	SACRE is better informed Community more aware of the SACRE and it's work Effective communication between community organisations and the SACRE		
3. To review options for varying venues for some SACRE meetings	Consider use of schools, places of worship	Clerk SACRE	Lifetime of Plan	Community more aware of the SACRE and it's work		
4. To review options for guest speakers to attend SACRE meetings	Correspondence received, research of local resources	Clerk SACRE	Lifetime of Plan	SACRE is better informed Community more aware of the SACRE and it's work		
5. Increase the use of local religious and non-faith resources and personnel in schools	Produce directory for schools Promote and support use of these resources through CPD and other means	SACRE Adviser Clerk	Lifetime of Plan	Rich and relevant directory produced Schools use of external resources increased		

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EXAMINATION DATA 2012

2012 results compared to 2011 (2012 data is provisional)

GCSE Short Course and Full Course Examinations

2012

Religious Studies GCSE Full Course

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G	QCA
													Av Pts
BEXLEY	2132	180	393	466	419	290	206	91	45	42	1458	2090	41.0
BEXLEY %	2132	8.4	18.4	21.9	19.7	13.6	9.7	4.3	2.1	2.0	68.4	98.0	41.0
National%	210,200	11.8	20.3	23.0	19.0	10.8	6.8	4.2	2.4	1.4	74.1	98.3	

2011

Religious Studies GCSE Full Course

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G	QCA
													Av Pts
BEXLEY	1625	178	361	343	279	201	132	72	43	16	1161	1609	42.4
BEXLEY %	1625	11.0	22.2	21.1	17.2	12.4	8.1	4.4	2.6	1.0	71.4	99.0	41.4
National%	195,100	11.8	20.2	22.7	19.0	10.8	6.8	4.3	2.6	1.5	73.8	98.2	

2012

Religious Studies GCSE Short Course

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G	QCA
													Av Pts
BEXLEY	536	108	71	53	67	62	42	59	48	26	299	510	19.1
BEXLEY %	536	20.1	13.2	9.9	12.5	11.6	7.8	11	9	4.9	55.8	95.1	19.1
National %	176,187	5.8	10.6	16.0	17.9	15.3	12.0	9.1	6.2	5.1	50.3	92.8	

2011

Religious Studies GCSE Short Course

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	U	A*-C	A*-G	QCA
													Av Pts
BEXLEY	1047	55	138	212	188	132	125	103	55	39	593	1008	18.5
BEXLEY %	1047	5.3	13.2	20.2	18.0	12.6	11.9	9.8	5.3	3.7	56.6	96.3	18.5
National %	199,032	5.4	10.5	16.2	18.5	15.1	12.3	9.0	6.2	4.9	50.6	93.1	

AS & A Level Examinations

2012

Religious Studies AS Level

	Entries	Α	В	С	D	Е	C	A-B	A-E	QCA Av Pts
BEXLEY	34	0	3	10	9	7	5	3	29	80.7
BEXLEY %	34	0.0	8.8	29.4	26.5	20.6	14.7	8.8	85.3	80.7
National %	26,209	20.2	21.1	22.9	16.9	10.5		41.3	91.5	

2011

Religious Studies AS Level

	Entries	Α	В	С	D	E	U	A-B	A-E	QCA Av Pts
BEXLEY	22	1	4	7	4	3	3	5	19	88.0
BEXLEY %	22	4.5	18.2	31.8	18.2	13.6	13.6	22.7	86.4	88.0
National %	26,398	19.2	21.6	22.6	16.8	10.5		40.8	90.7	

2012

Religious Studies A Level

	Entries	A*	A	В	С	D	E	U	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	QCA Av Pts
BEXLEY	61	3	10	18	16	7	5	2	13	31	59	217.9
BEXLEY %	61	4.9	16.4	29.5	26.2	11.5	8.2	3.3	21.3	50.8	96.7	217.9
National %	18,854	5.6	20.2	29.5	24.5	13.7	5.4		25.8	55.3	98.9	

2011

Religious Studies A Level

	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	U	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	QCA
												Av Pts
BEXLEY	69	-	9	20	29	7	3	1	9	29	68	217.8
BEXLEY %	69	-	13.0	29.0	42.0	10.1	4.3	1.4	13.0	42.0	98.6	217.8
National %	18,536	5.9	21.8	29.7	23.6	12.9	5.1		27.7	57.4	98.9	

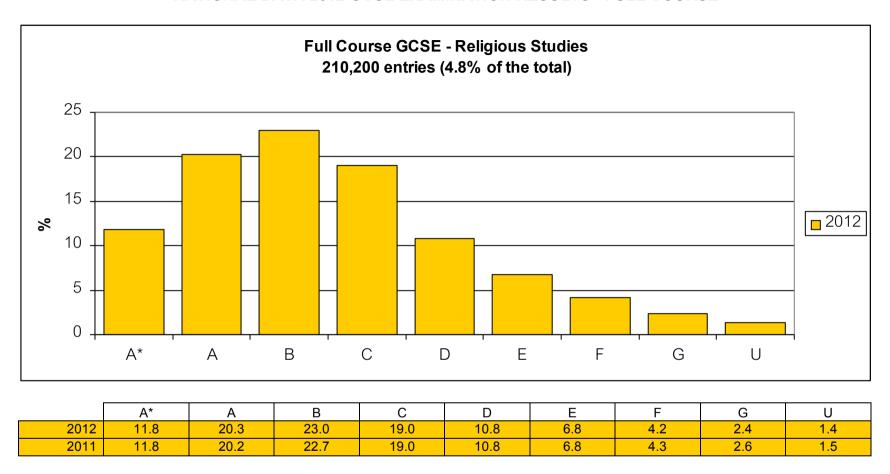
Local Examination Data

a) GCSE Results

		Religio	ous Stud	ies GC	SE Full	Course 2	2012						
Centre	Entries	A*	А	В	С	A*-C	D	Е	F	G	A*-G	U	QCA Av Pts
Beths Grammar School	40	9	19	7	1	36	2	2			40		49.9
Bexley Grammar School	224	14	61	88	47	210	8	6			224		46.2
Bexleyheath School	239	3	14	43	46	106	60	43	20	6	235	4	35.6
Blackfen School for Girls	167	10	34	33	46	123	24	16	2	1	166	1	42.1
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	192	51	66	54	17	188	1	2	1		192		50.3
Cleeve Park School	162	17	32	27	29	105	26	21	7	3	162		41.5
Erith School	153	1	15	37	38	91	28	24	3	3	149	4	37.9
Harris Academy Falconwood	117	2	17	23	34	76	24	12	2	1	115	2	39.6
Hurstmere School for Boys	11	1		3	2	6	4		1		11		39.5
St Catherine's RC School for Girls	210	22	81	53	32	188	15	4	1	2	210		47.1
St Columba's RC Boys' School	149	2	12	16	44	74	28	13	16	11	142	7	34.1
Townley Grammar School for Girls	44	40	3	1		44					44		57.3
Trinity C of E School	175	3	20	37	47	107	35	21	11	1	175		39.0
Welling School	249	5	19	44	36	104	35	42	27	17	225	24	32.0
	2132	180	393	466	419	1458	290	206	91	45	2090	42	41.0

	F	Religiou	ıs Studi	es GCS	E Full	Course 20	011						
Centre	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	A*-C	D	Е	F	G	A*-G	U	QCA Av Pts
Bexley Grammar School	223	60	99	53	10	222	1				223		51.6
Bexleyheath School	23		3	6	6	15	3	3		2	23		38.7
Blackfen School for Girls	177	4	24	39	40	107	41	19	6	3	176	1	39.4
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	187	38	87	44	7	176	7	3	1		187		50.1
Cleeve Park School	154	16	23	27	36	102	19	13	14	5	153	1	40.3
Erith School	114	8	20	26	28	82	16	12	4		114		42.0
Harris Academy Falconwood	89	1	9	14	31	55	11	15	6	1	88	1	37.7
St Catherine's RC School for Girls	195	19	60	68	28	175	15	3	1	1	195		46.7
St Columba's RC Boys' School	188	2	3	13	32	50	39	39	25	24	177	11	29.3
The Business Academy Bexley	28		1	5	12	18	3	4	3		28		37.2
Townley Grammar School for Girls	30	22	7	1		30					30		56.2
Trinity C of E School	90	5	15	22	20	62	14	5	5	4	90		40.8
Welling School	127	3	10	25	29	67	32	16	7	3	125	2	37.3
	1625	178	361	343	279	1161	201	132	72	43	1609	16	42.4

NATIONAL DATA 2012 GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS - FULL COURSE

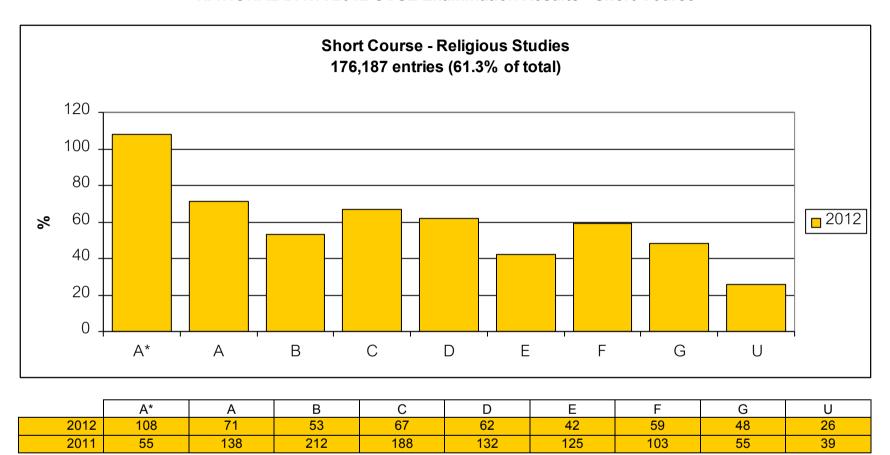


Data from DfE (2012 results are provisional)

	F	Religious	Studie	s GCSI	E Short	Course	2012						
Centre	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	A*-C	D	Е	F	G	A*-G	U	QCA Av Pts
Beths Grammar School	118	6	15	39	36	96	20	1		1	118		21.6
Bexleyheath School	1				1	1					1		20.0
Blackfen School for Girls	36			2	3	5	11	3	10	5	34	2	13.5
Cleeve Park School	13				1	1	2	1	5	4	13		11.9
Erith School	168			3	18	21	24	34	38	30	147	21	11.7
Harris Academy Falconwood	2									1	1	1	4.0
Oakwood Special School	13						5	3	2	3	13		13.3
St Columba's RC Boys' School	2											2	0.0
Townley Grammar School for Girls	167	102	56	9		167					167		27.7
Welling School	16				8	8			4	4	16		14.8
	536	108	71	53	67	299	62	42	59	48	510	26	19.1

	F	Religious	Studie	s GCS	E Short	Course	2011						
Centre	Entries	A*	Α	В	С	A*-C	D	Е	F	G	A*-G	U	QCA Av Pts
Beths Grammar School	158	8	29	55	49	141	16	1	-	-	158	-	22.3
Bexley Grammar School	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	20.0
Bexleyheath School	257	6	29	65	58	158	37	35	20	6	256	1	19.3
Blackfen School for Girls	23	-	-	-	2	2	3	2	8	6	21	2	11.1
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	29.0
Cleeve Park School	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	5	-	14.0
Erith School	211	-	6	24	40	70	34	46	37	10	197	14	15.2
Harris Academy Falconwood	40	-	1	-	1	2	4	4	11	14	35	5	10.1
Oakwood Special School	7	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	4	3	8.9
The Business Academy Bexley	9	2	2	2	1	7	1	-	-	-	8	1	21.4
Townley Grammar School for Girls	178	35	70	53	16	174	4	-	-	-	178	-	25.0
Trinity C of E School	87	3	1	9	16	29	17	16	12	11	85	2	15.8
Welling School	70	-	-	4	2	6	15	18	12	8	59	11	11.9
	1047	55	138	212	188	593	132	125	103	55	1008	39	18.5

NATIONAL DATA 2012 GCSE Examination Results - Short Course



Data from DfE (2012 results are provisional)

b) A and AS Level Results

Religious Studies AS level 2012											
Centre	Entries	Α	В	С	D	Е	A-B	A-E	U	QCA Av Pts	
Beths Grammar School	1				1			1		90.0	
Bexleyheath School	7			1		2		3	4	36.4	
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	16		1	5	6	4	1	16		92.8	
Cleeve Park School	1				1			1		90.0	
Townley Grammar School for Girls	4		1	3			1	4		108.8	
Trinity C of E	4		1	1	1	1	1	4		97.5	
Welling School	1								1	0.0	
	34		3	10	9	7	3	29	5	80.7	

Religious Studies AS level 2011											
Centre	Entries	Α	В	С	D	Е	A-B	A-E	U	QCA Av Pts	
Beths Grammar School	4		1	1	1		1	3	1	78.8	
Bexley College	1				1			1		90.0	
Bexleyheath School	4		1	2			1	3	1	82.5	
Blackfen School for Girls	2			1	1			2		97.5	
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	5	1	2	2			3	5		117.0	
Cleeve Park School	2					2		2		75.0	
Townley Grammar School for Girls	3			1		1		2	1	60.0	
Trinity C of E	1				1			1		90.0	
	22	1	4	7	4	3	5	19	3	88.0	

Religious Studies A level 2012											
Centre	Entries	A*	А	В	С	D	Е	A*-B	A*-E	U	QCA Av Pts
Bexley Grammar School	7		3	2	2			5	7		244.3
Bexleyheath School	8				2	1	3		6	2	131.3
Blackfen School for Girls	7			1	3	2	1	1	7		197.1
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	19	3	2	10	2	1	1	15	19		241.6
Cleeve Park School	3			1	2			1	3		220.0
Townley Grammar School for Girls	14		5	4	4	1		9	14		237.9
Trinity C of E School	2				1	1			2		195.0
Welling School	1					1			1		180.0
	61	3	10	18	16	7	5	31	59	2	217.9

Religious Studies A level 2011											
Centre	Entries	A*	А	В	С	D	Е	A*-B	A*-E	J	QCA Av Pts
Beths Grammar School	5			2	3			2	5		222.0
Bexley Grammar School	6		1	1	4			2	6		225.0
Bexleyheath School	13			4	6	1	1	4	12	1	196.2
Blackfen School for Girls	5			1	2	1	1	1	5		198.0
Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School	18		2	1	11	3	1	3	18		210.0
Cleeve Park School	4			1	1	2		1	4		202.5
Townley Grammar School for Girls	18		6	10	2			16	18		246.7
	69		9	20	29	7	3	29	68	1	217.8