

Education Durham: Report to Durham SACRE March 2020

2019 GCSE Outcomes (all data from FFT)

Number of pupils taking GCSE Religious Studies

There has been a decline in % pupils taking GCSE RS. 1497 (31% of cohort) pupils took a GCSE in RS in 2019 compared with 1765 (38%) pupils in 2018 and this continues a steady decline over the last 5 years. 659 boys took GCSE RS and 828 girls took GCSE RS in 2019.

Achievement

a) Attainment

The average grade achieved has increased and is 5.5pts, significantly above the national average (5pts). In 2016 it was significantly below national average. Boys average point score was 5.1pts and girls average point score was 5.8pts.

The % of results at Grade 4+ is 81% and significantly above national average. Results are in line with the national average at grade 5+ and 4% below national average at grade 7+.

b) Progress

In 2019 pupil progress is significantly above the national average at 0.16pts. Progress is above the national average at all grade points. Boys progress was much stronger than girls but progress for both has improved to above national average. Pupils with higher, middle and lower attainment on entry all made better than average progress in 2019. This is much improved from 2018 when all prior attainment groups made lower than average progress. The strongest progress was made by pupils with higher attainment on entry.

Individual School performance

26 secondary schools entered pupils for GCSE RE in 2019. The number of entries varied from 1 to 215. Average point score ranged from 6.9 (18 pupils) to 2.9 (7 pupils). 15 schools had progress above national average and 9 had progress below national average. The strongest progress was 2.28pts (1 pupil) and the weakest -1.34pts (57 pupils).

The strongest performing schools in terms of GCSE RS attainment were St Bede's RC Comprehensive School and Byron Sixth Form College, Wolsingham School and Easington Academy. The strongest performing schools in terms of progress were St Bede's RC Comprehensive School and Byron Sixth Form College, St John's School and Sixth Form College and St Bede's RC Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester.

2019 A level Outcomes (all data from FFT)

53 students (24 males and 29 females) took an A level RS qualification in 2019, compared to 58 in 2018.

The average point score was 38 pts, significantly above the national average and higher than in 2018. 82% of students attained A*-C at A level. Progress was 1.2pts better than the average progress; an improvement from 2018. A*/A was 26%, an improvement on 17% in 2018.

Education Durham Support to Schools in 2018-2019

Education Durham provided 3 primary network meetings for subject coordinator and 3 secondary network meetings for subject leaders in 2018-2019 academic year.

Support included SEND provision in RE, addressing the needs of Pupil Premium pupils, improving disciplinary literacy, maximising the achievement of boys, good practice in raising the achievement of higher attaining pupils on entry at secondary, leading effective KS2 to KS3 transition and effective departmental evaluation.

6 individual RE support contracts were provided to primary, secondary and special schools through the Education Durham School Support Service Level Agreement.

Disciplinary literacy guidance in RE was included within the Education Durham Literacy Journey handbook.

The RE Expert Panel

A small expert panel was set up and supported by a small grant from Culham St Gabriel's and supported by the North East Religious Learning Centre and Isobel Short Specialist Inspector for RE at Education Durham. This group have contributed to the development of a non-examined KS4 curriculum plan which forms part of the draft Durham Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Durham Revised Agreed Syllabus for RE

Isobel Short Specialist Inspector for RE at Education Durham has supported the work of the Durham Agreed Syllabus Conference in 2018-19 and written a draft Agreed Syllabus for County Durham on their behalf. She also provided support to SACRE.

Education Durham enabled Isobel, Specialist Inspector for RE to attend the 2019 National Association of RE Inspector, Adviser and Consultants in Manchester.