

## Education Durham's report to SACRE

Spring 2024

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### This term's report outlines:

- An overview of courses and networks offered to date
- A summary of GCSE and A Level results for the summer 2023 season

### Networks and training

211 bookings have been received for RE courses and network meetings to date. Just over half of these (108) have come in this term. Secondary network meeting numbers are broadly the same across the two terms. Primary numbers have dipped, which is a common trend we see in foundation subjects at this time of year. 'New to leading Primary RE' was offered for the first time last term and proved to be successful. Similarly, 35 teachers booked onto a full day course looking at Buddhism (am) and religious diversity (pm).

	Autumn term	Spring term
Primary network meeting	79	66
Secondary network meeting	6	7
New to leading primary RE	18	X
Buddhism and religious diversity course	X	35

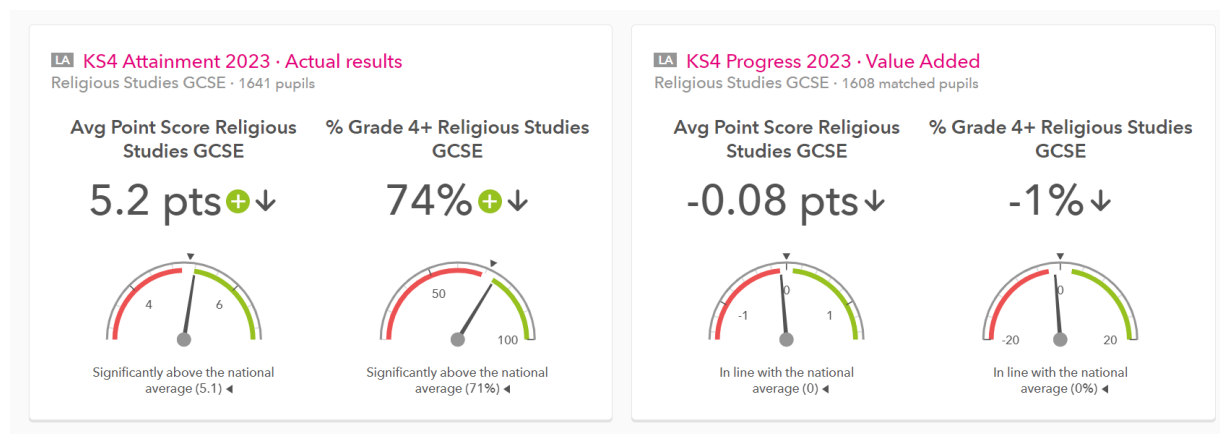
Summer networks will be offered for primary and secondary schools, and we are scoping next year's courses presently. These are likely to include another 'new to leading primary RE course', a course around other religious- and non-religious traditions, and a course on assessment in RE.

We are sharing a survey with leaders of RE in schools to ascertain if they need any additional support with implementing the RE Agreed Syllabus and this will inform future courses. We also anticipate this being helpful when we review the syllabus in 2025. These results will be shared in the next meeting of SACRE in the summer term.

### Secondary results

As a local authority, we are able to view KS4 (GCSE) examination results using a programme called FFT Aspire. This enables us to delve into results by subject and to analyse trends over time. We can also access overview data for the most recent KS5 (A Level) cohort.

## GCSE 2023 headlines at a glance



Attainment results are based on actual student results with grade 4 equivalent to a GCSE grade C. This shows us that County Durham’s RE results are significantly above the national average.

‘Value added’ refers to the progress made from KS2 (Y6) SATs results to GCSE compared to other students. If ‘value added’ is 0, students make expected progress. This data suggests that students didn’t make quite as much progress as other students nationally.

### Data overview

	Actual results		
	2021	2022	2023
Number of Pupils / % Matched	1,143	1,459	1,641
Avg Point Score	5.9 (+)	5.6 (+)	5.2 (+) ↓
% Grade 4+	86% (+)	81% (+)	74% (+) ↓
% Grade 5+	74% (+)	72% (+)	63% (+) ↓
% Grade 7+	39% (+)	35% (+)	31% ↓
% Grade 1+	100% (+)	99% (+)	99% (+)

Pleasingly, the number of students taking GCSE RE has increased from 1,143 in 2021 to 1,641 in 2023.

99% of students passed last summer and County Durham’s students have consistently achieved results above national average at Grades 4+ and 5+ (GCSE ‘C’ equivalent). However, we can also see a decline in this % over time, and the % of students achieving a Grade 7 (GCSE A equivalent).

Schools with the highest number of entries were:

- Durham Johnston Comprehensive School (253)
- St Leonard's RC School (225)
- St Bede's RC School, Lanchester (236)
- St John's School and Sixth Form College (193)
- Sedgfield Community College (156)
- Framwellgate School (128)
- St Bede's RC School, Peterlee (117)

The top 5 schools for pupil progress based on average points scores were:

- St Leonard's (+1.26)
- Park View (+0.7)
- Belmont (+0.63)
- Consett Academy (+0.51)
- Easington Academy (+0.25)

### A Level coverage and results

Of the 15 schools and colleges that offer A Level qualifications, 8 had an A Level Religious Studies cohort completing their qualifications in the summer 2023. Cohort sizes varied from 3 to 13, with a total of 69 students across the County. The average points scores ranged from -3.7 to +14.3, with the highest performing results at St Bede's Peterlee, New College Durham and St John's in Bishop Auckland.

The Hermitage Academy	3
Durham Sixth Form Centre	10
Durham Johnston	12
St John's	12
St Leonard's	8
St Bede's Peterlee	3
St Bede's Lanchester	13
New College Durham	8