

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SACRE- MARCH 2020

STANDARDS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATIONS IN 2019

- **Introduction**

This paper summarises the Wandsworth and England results for 2019 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 2019

- There were 207,720 entries for the full course in GCSE Religious Studies (RS), a significant increase from 2018 (162,230).
- There were 4,350 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, an increase from 2018 (2,490) but still well below that of previous years, for example 2017 (12,489).
- There were 212,070 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses) compared with 2018 (164,720).
- While it is pleasing to see that the numbers have risen from the low point last year, it is interesting to note the comparison with 2015 when 338,138 students sat a GCSE in RS.

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2019

• **Summary of Wandsworth data**

- 1,052 students sat a Religious Studies (RS) examination in Wandsworth in 2019, similar to the numbers in 2018 (1,046).
- 804 students sat the GCSE full course, and 13 the GCSE short course. This was an increase in full course and short course numbers. This rise was also reflected nationally.
- As for last 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. There was again a great divergence between schools in this: St Cecilia's and Graveney entered almost all their students, Chestnut Grove and St John Bosco around three quarters, and Ashcroft about half.
- The lowest proportion was at Ernest Bevin where it was only around 3% of the cohort.
- Ark Putney again entered no students as it is not offered as a GCSE option.
- Only Francis Barber PRU entered students for the short course.
- 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. Research from Liverpool Hope University shows that nationally, most of those taking religious studies are at faith schools, stating that 95% of students at RC schools and 68% at CE schools took the subject, while only 30% of students at schools without a religious character did so.
- There were 130 entrants for AS level, down from 159 in 2018, and 105 entrants for A Level, up from 82 last year (82). There were 15,980 candidates for religious studies A level in England, again down from the previous school year and showing a continuously falling trend.
- As noted last year, Rudolf Elliott Lockhart, the chief executive of the Religious Education Council had expressed his concern of the dramatic fall in the numbers studying RS, attributing it to the "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".
- This was the second year since the 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 the results of 2017 and earlier.
- However, Wandsworth students performed better than the national averages, with an average points score of 5.7, compared with 5.2 for all schools nationally. The highest average points (6.5) were earned at Ernest Bevin (6 students) and 6.4 at Harris Battersea, (22 students and around a fifth of the cohort). Only St Cecilia's (4.8) and Southfields (3.7) were below the national average.
- St John Bosco has now been on a four year upward trajectory, at 83.8% 9 - 4 above the national average for the first time.
- Overall the indicator of grades 9 - 4 showed that Wandsworth was again above the national average – 78.9% compared with 72.4% national, although slightly below the LA 2018 9-4 average of 82.6%
- At AS level, students performed very well at grades A – E, with an average of 95.4%, compared with 87.6% nationally and for A – B, 60.8% compared to 36% nationally. These Wandsworth results were further up from 2018.

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- At A level, the percentage A* - B comparator, showed slight drops for both Wandsworth and the national average. Wandsworth was still higher however (51.4% compared with 50% nationally). At A* - E, Wandsworth suffered a bigger drop to 96.2% from 98.9% compared with 97.9% nationally (98 in 2018).
- Within the LA as ever, results varied widely from school to school. At A level for A* - B, Ashcroft was 100% (7 students) and Harris 80% (5) students). Chestnut Grove had 66.7%, a drop from last year (81.8%) but well above average, as was St Cecilia's at 64.7%. Burntwood, Ernest Bevin and Southfield were well below in the 20s, but this was an increase for Southfields from last year, when no students had achieved A* to B.

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2019**GCSE results in Wandsworth schools**

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCSE Short Course

Centre	Entries					%A* - C (9 – 4 2018 onwards)					%A* - G/ave pts 2018 onwards				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NCER National	68890	34180	12489	2490	4350	56.6	54.0	45.9			96.3	94.3	94.4		
LA Comparator	171	7	162	25	13	50.3	14.3	34.5	24		98.8	71.4	95.1		n/a
Ashcroft Technology Academy	0	0	0	0	0										
Battersea Park School/Harris Battersea	0	0	0	0	0										
Burntwood	0	0	159	0	0			35.2					95.1		
Chestnut Grove	0	1	0	0	0		0.0					0.0			
Elliott/ ARK Putney	0	0	0	0	0										
Ernest Bevin	144	1	0	1/176	0	53.5	100.0		0		98.6	100.0		2	
Garratt Park	0	0	0	0	0										
Graveney School	27	2	0	0	0	33.3	0.0				100.0	100.0			
Nightingale School	0	0	0	0	0										
Saint John Bosco College	0	1	3	0	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)	0	2	0	24/49	13/49		0.0		25	7.7		50.0		n/a	n/a

2019 data is provisional

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2019

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCSE Full Course

Centre	Entries/NOR					%A* - C (% 9 - 4 2018 onwards)					%A* - G/ave pts 2018 onwards				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NCER National	269248	268473	248210	162230	207720	72.2	71.7	71.2	71.8	72.4	98.3	97.8	97.9	5.1	5.2
LA Comparator	970	1027	886	778	804	74.5	74.3	78.1	82.6	78.9	98.4	98.1	98.9	5.8	5.7
Ark Bolingbroke Academy			13	9/102	45/111			61.5	100	82.2			100.0	8.0	5.6
Ashcroft Technology Academy	91	106	123	128/201	98/199	59.3	86.8	90.2	88.3	91.8	97.8	98.1	100.0	6.4	6.1
Battersea Park School/ Harris Battersea	131	8	0	10/101	23/115	58.0	75.0		100	91.3	98.5	100.0		6.2	6.4
Burntwood	267	265	111	51/262	60/264	80.9	68.7	67.6	84.3	80.0	99.6	98.5	99.1	5.9	6.0
Chestnut Grove	108	116	115	97/148	131/163	75	72.4	67.8	91.8	76.3	98.1	98.3	99.1	6.0	5.6
Elliott/ Ark Putney	0	0	0	0	0										
Ernest Bevin	7	73	46	21/176	6/175	14.3	87.7	100.0	90.5	83.3	100	100.0	100.0	5.5	6.5
Graveney School	206	239	236	249/258	245/255	91.7	86.2	87.3	86.3	84.1	99.5	99.6	100.0	6.1	6.1
Saint John Bosco College	89	71	68	56/62	37/45	43.8	39.4	51.5	71.4	83.8	96.6	87.3	88.2	4.8	5.8
Southfields (GM)	18	9	18	20/133	26/164	83.3	55.6	50.0	25.0	50.0	100	100.0	100.0	2.8	3.7
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	144	139	141	137/137	133/135	73.6	69.1	80.1	73.7	62.4	95.1	99.3	100.0	5.2	4.8

2019 data is provisional – where old and new style of grading has had to be combined A* has been equated to 8 and C to 4 – please note that the NCER national only includes those RS courses that have Wandsworth school pupils enrolled on them

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2019**A& AS level results in Wandsworth schools (does not include sixth form colleges)**

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCE AS level

Centre	Entries				%A - C		%A - B		%A-E		%A - E	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
NCER National	32515	13910	16130	7180	68.6	70.2	35.8	36	92.7	93.3	86.4	87.6
LA Comparator	191	108	159	130	64.1	76.9	52.2	60.8	91.3	96.3	93.1	95.4
Ark Bolingbroke Academy												
Ashcroft Technology Academy	24	23	28	31	70.8	91.3	64.3	80.6	95.8	100	96.4	100
Burntwood	46	0	7	0	52.2		-		84.8		28.6	
Chestnut Grove	16	12	31	38	75	56.3	80.6	63.2	87.5	100	100	100
Elliott/ Ark Putney												
Ernest Bevin	8	11	9	0	87.5	81.8	44.4		100	90.9	88.9	
Harris Battersea	8	0	7	5	25		71.4	80			100	100
Graveney School	33	23	50	48	90.9	69.9	54.0	54.2	100	100	98.0	91.7
Saint John Bosco College	1	0	0	0	0				100			
Southfields			10	1			-	-			100	100
St Cecilia's, Church of England School			17	7			23.5	-			82.4	71.4

2019 data is provisional

Report to SACRE on Religious Studies examination results 2019

Subject: Religious Studies (4610)

Qual: GCE A level

Centre	Entries					%A* - C (A*-B 2018 onwards)					%A* - E				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NCER National	23372	22079	21289	16600	15980	80.1	79.9	80.6	52.3	50	98.6	98.5	98.4	98	97.9
LA Comparator	120	166	109	82	105	58.8	74.0	73.3	52.4	51.4	96.6	98.2	98.2	98.9	96.2
Ashcroft Technology Academy	15	18	11	11	7	80.0	100.0	100.0	81.8	100	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100
Burntwood	32	36	28	19	17	40.6	72.2	50.0	42.1	23.5	96.9	97.2	96.4	100	88.2
Chestnut Grove	14	10	9	11	18	78.9	70.0	88.9	81.8	66.7	100	100.0	88.9	100	100
Ernest Bevin	2	4	4	4	9	100.0	50.0	75.0	25	22.2	100	100.0	100.0	100	88.9
Graveney School	31	30	25	16	22	87.1	73.3	72.0	62.5	54.5	100	100.0	100.0	100	100
Harris Academy Battersea		0	2	0	5			50.0		80			100.0		100
Saint John Bosco College	5	3	0	3	0	60.0	66.6		0		100	100.0		100	
Southfields	0	12	13	7	10		58.3	69.2	0	20		91.7	100.0	100	90
St Cecilia's, Church of England School	20	13	17	11	17	100.0	77.0	94.1	54.5	64.7	100	100.0	100.0	90.9	100

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