

Anglesey : Summer 2013

2.5 Standards in Religious Education in secondary schools

2.5.1 KS3 Teacher Assessments in Religious Education

Religious Education departments judge pupils' attainment on the basis of the year's work, specific assessment tasks and tests. The pupils do not sit the same tests or respond to the same assessment tasks. Many training meetings have been held since 2007 to support teachers as they analysed the characteristics of the level descriptions and planned appropriate learning activities. Schools were invited to submit portfolios of pupils' work to WJEC external moderators in 2010/11 and 2011/2012 in order to moderate teachers' understanding of the level descriptions. This process was completed during the Summer of 2012 and departments have received reports outlining whether the moderators agreed with the teachers' understanding of the level characteristics. These reports offered further guidance to teachers if the moderators had failed to agree with the departments' interpretation. There will be no further opportunities to submit or resubmit portfolios.

Four (out of 5) secondary schools submitted portfolios as part of the WJEC external moderation process. The Chief Moderator's reports show that the majority of departments had a good understanding of the characteristics of Levels 4 and 5. Nearly half of the departments had a good understanding of Levels 6 and 7.

A training event for the religious education teachers of North Wales, 'Understanding Standards at KS3' was organised at Llandudno Junction in January 2013. The three RE advisers in the North Wales region worked together in order to organise the training course sponsored by WASACRE, the six local authorities of North Wales and the secondary schools. The providers reinforced previous guidance and reference was made to 'Religious Education: Guidance for KS2 and KS3' (Welsh Government, 2011) as teachers planned and assessed rich learning activities in religious education. Representatives from 5 RE departments in Gwynedd attended the training course.

The Welsh Government does not collect KS3 Religious Education assessments therefore we are unable to compare the performance of secondary departments in Gwynedd with other local authorities across Wales. CYNNAL collects KS3 data on behalf of Anglesey (A), Gwynedd (G) and Conwy (C)*.

Year	Schools	Pupils		%L5+		%L6+		%L7+	
	M+G+C*	Anglesey	A+G+C	Anglesey	A+G+C	Anglesey	A+G+C	Anglesey	A+G+C
2013	3(5)	428		90.0%		45.3%		14.3%	
2012	5(5)+13(14)+4(7)	656	2,568	74.1%		29.7%		6.9%	
2011	3(5)+11(14)+2(7)	377	1,767	76.9%		26.0%		10.1%	

- KS3 performance data has been received from three secondary schools: Ysgol Sir Thomas Jones, Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, Ysgol David Hughes.
- CYNNAL has not received KS3 data performance from: Ysgol Bodedern, Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni and Ysgol y Bont (special school).
- 428 KS3 pupils were assessed in Summer 2012.
- 90% of Anglesey's KS3 pupils attained Level 5+ in Religious Education. The percentage varies from 85% in one school to 93% in another.
- 45.3% of Anglesey's KS3 pupils attained Level 6 in Religious Education. The percentage varies from 34% to 51%.
- 14.3% of Anglesey's KS3 pupils attained Level 7 in Religious Education. Level 7 was awarded to pupils in every school and the percentage varies between 3% to 21%.
- Level 3 or below was awarded to pupils in two schools.

- No pupil was awarded Level 8 in Religious Education.

What are SACRE's recommendations to Anglesey Council?

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2.5.2 GCSE Results: Religious Studies (full course)

The data represents the candidates who were 15 years old or older in January 2011

Anglesey secondary schools	Number of schools	Number of candidates			% Excellence			% L2			% L1			Average subject score		
		B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ
2013	5	32	108	140	28.1	46.3	42.1	81.3	82.4	82.1	100	100	100	44	46	46
2012	4	46	110	156	43.5	65.5	59.0	76.1	94.5	89.1	100	100	100	44	50	49
2011	5	46	100	146	21.7	58.0	46.6	67.4	92.0	84.2	100	100	100	41	49	47
2010		22	54	76	27.3	48.1	42.1	40.9	90.7	76.3	100	100	100	36	48	44

The average score achieved by the pupils in all subjects is not available to the humanities adviser. Consequently it is inappropriate to compare performances of schools. However, RE departments will be able to access data to show how their candidates performed in other subjects and are advised to use this information in their self-evaluation.

Very good results

- 140 candidates from 5 schools in Anglesey. The average subject score of 46 shows a fall of 3 points since 2012.
- The number of candidates varies from 11 pupils in one school to 39 in another.
- 42.1% of the candidates were awarded A*/A (excellence). The percentage is significantly lower than 2012 (-17%) and shows a return to the percentage of 2012.
- 82% of the candidates were awarded a Level 2+ qualification (A*- C) which is lower (-7%) than the percentage of candidates awarded L2+ in 2012. All candidates have attained a Level 1 qualification.
- More girls than boys choose Religious Studies as a GCSE optional subject (B 32 : G 108).
- The results achieved by the girls are better than those achieved by the boys. The average score achieved by the girls is 46 in comparison with the average score of 44 achieved by the boys. +8 represents a GCSE grade. However this year's L2 results suggest that the gap between boys and girls has closed for the fourth consecutive year. The gap between the percentage of boys and girls attaining A*/A is 18.2% which is similar to the gap observed in 2012 (22%).

GCSE Results: Religious Studies (short course)

This data represents the pupils who were 15 years old or older on January 2010. These pupils have chosen to claim their points on the completion of their GCSE short course instead of continuing their studies for a second year. Very few schools offer the GCSE Religious Studies short course as an accreditation for the statutory KS4 Religious Education course.

Ysgolion Uwchradd Ynys Môn	Nifer o ysgolion	Nifer yn sefyll			% Rhagoriaeth			% L2			% L1			Sgôr cyfartalog y pwnc		
		B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ
2013	2	11	32	43				72.7	84.4	81.4	100	100	100	21	25	24
2012	3	4	3	7				50.0	66.7	57.1	100	100	100	19	21	20
2011	2	32	37	69	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.6	86.5	76.8	100	100	100	20	24	22
2010		70	136	206	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.4	91.2	81.1	100	100	100	19	24	22

What are SACRE's recommendations to Anglesey Council?

- Ensure that religious education teachers are able to access the subject guidance of the WJEC examination board.
- Invite the RE Department from Ysgol Sir Thomas Jones to share good practice at a meeting of Anglesey SACRE. The ratio of boys to girls is slightly higher than in other schools (B14:G25) and the average subject score of the boys (46) is closer (-1) to the average subject score of the girls (47).
- Facilitate professional learning communities for religious education teachers in order to respond to the ESTYN Inspection Report (2013) and to explore key questions such as:
 - *Why do pupils choose the subject? Why don't pupils choose the subject? Why do more girls than boys choose to study the subject?*
 - *What can departments learn from other departments about the best way of supporting boys as they prepare for external examinations. What other strategies should be considered in order to close the gap between the results achieved by boys and girls?*
 - *How can departments challenge pupils to produce work of the highest standard?*