

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
6th February 2019
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities
Report on the analysis of 2018 GCSE and A Level results for Staffordshire
Maintained schools

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present SACRE members with a statistical analysis of the standards achieved in the 2018 GCSE- full course and the GCE Advanced Level Religious studies examined in Summer 2018.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Members of SACRE will receive an analysis of the standards achieved

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That members of SACRE receive the report
3.2 That letters be sent on behalf of SACRE to identified schools offering congratulations or support as appropriate.

4 Background

- 4.1 A report on the standards achieved by Staffordshire maintained schools as of July 2018 in examinations held in Summer 2018 is attached to this report.
4.2 Key issues identified in the analysis are as follows:

GCSE Results

There have been changes to the GCSE regulations regarding assessment. The majority of pupils who undertook their GCSE studies were assessed in 2018 on a scale of 1-9, not A* to C/A* to G grades. (Grade 9 being the highest grading).

This has had implications for the exam analysis as comparisons to previous year results are not based on a like to like basis.

One school (Codsall High School) was measured on the previous A* to G grades as they had already commenced their studies on the syllabus which would then be measured using the previous system gradings.

These students were entered for the exam in Year 10 and the results are reported when they are in Year 11.

Therefore they are not included in the main data set.

They are in their own data set- see data.

Four additional schools have results reported in this way.

In future this will be reported using the 1-9 grading.

The number of schools entering students for the GCSE course fluctuates from year to year.

Last year in 2017 the results of 16 schools were analysed.
In 2018 this decreased to 13 schools. The reason for this is as schools convert to academy status they no longer appear in the Maintained Local authority data set.

Two maintained schools entered pupils for the GCSE short course with King Edward VI entering 121 candidates, this too is measured on 9-1 grading with over 45% achieving a grade 5 and above and 65% a grade 4 and above

Overall, we need to be mindful that there is a dip in standards this year which could be attributed to the new grading and the raising of the challenge within the GCSE syllabus.

Next year we will gain a better picture of the situation as more accurate comparisons can be made.

A level results

The gap in results achieved nationally in comparison with those achieved locally in Staffordshire for A level grades A-B is diminishing.

National results (52.3%) for A Level Religious Studies in 2018 are broadly in line with overall National results achieved in 2017.

Staffordshire's 2018 results (43.5%) are lower than national but an improvement on the 2017 results of 36.6%.

Historically in 2016 the National Average A* to B was 54.4% and the Staffordshire Average A* to B was 49.6%, there was a dip in Staffordshire results to 36% in 2017, so in 2018 we are starting to regain the ground we lost in 2017.

Results for all pupils show that although pupils in Staffordshire achieved below the national average at grades A*-B, they performed very well across the full spectrum of grades A*-E. Girls attainment is consistently higher across all aspects.

The results for male and female pupils show that more girls are entered for Religious Studies at A level than boys and they achieve better results overall. This is reflected in the National picture.

7 Equal Opportunities

7.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

8 Financial implications

8.1 Financial implications that need to be considered are whether SACRE is willing to provide funds from its budget to support schools that show a dip in standards.

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