

2.3.1 Teacher assessment and external examination results in the secondary sector

Teacher assessments: Religious Education KS3

Departments judge pupils' attainment on the basis of the year's work, specific assessment tasks and tests and use the findings of the national moderation programme (2013-12) and Welsh Government guidance to verify their judgements:

- Religious Education: Guidance for KS2 and KS3 (2011)
- Exemplar Pupils Profiles at KS2 and KS3 in Religious Education: Supplementary Guidance (2011)

The Welsh Government does not collect KS3 Religious Education data, so it is inappropriate to compare the performance of Gwynedd schools with schools across Wales. However, CYNNAL does collect KS3 data on behalf of Anglesey (A), Gwynedd (G) and Conwy (C) local authorities*.

Year	Schools	Pupils		%L5+		%L6+		%L7+	
		A+G+C*	Gwynedd	A+G+C	Gwynedd	A+G+C	Gwynedd	A+G+C	Gwynedd
2014	5(5)+11(14)+0(0)	1044	1,652	94.2		61.9		21.1	
2013	5(5)+5(14)+1(7)	461	1,241	93.7	?	68.5	?	24.9	?
2012°	5(5)+13(14)+4(7)	1260	2,568	87.2	82.9	51.4	43.8	16.4	12.7
2011	3(5)+11(14)+2(7)	1145	1,767	82.0		40.9		12.6	

* By the end of October 2014, every 11 out of 14 secondary schools in Gwynedd had submitted KS3 performance data, 5 out of 5 secondary schools in Anglesey and 0 out of 0 schools in Conwy. Special schools did not submit teacher assessments for religious education.

° The moderation of religious education portfolios was completed in Summer 2012. This suggests therefore that there is a consistency in schools' understanding of the attainment levels.

- 11 (out of 14) secondary schools in Gwynedd submitted KS3 teacher assessment: YDyffryn Ogwen, Brynrefail, Eifionydd, Y Gader, Uwchradd Tywyn, Y Berwyn, Arduwy, Friars, Tryfan, Syr Hugh Owen, Glan y Môr;
- CYNNAL did not receive KS3 performance data from: Botwnnog, Dyffryn Nantlle, Y Moelwyn
- 1044 KS3 pupils were assessed in Summer 2012;
- 94.2% of Gwynedd's KS3 pupils attained Level 5+ in Religious Education, an increase of 0.5% since 2013. The percentage of pupils who were awarded L5+ varied from 90.8% to 98.2%;
- 61.9% of Gwynedd's KS3 pupils attained Level 6+ in Religious Education, 6.6% fewer than 2013. The percentage of pupils who were awarded L6+ varied from 43.4% to 76.8%;
- 21.1% of Gwynedd's KS3 pupils attained Level 7+ in Religious Education, 3.8% fewer than in 2013. Level 7+ was awarded by all schools, and the percentage of pupils who were awarded L7+ varied from 7.9% to 38.5%;
- Level 3 or lower was awarded to pupils in 5 schools.
- 4 pupils in Gwynedd were awarded Level 8 in religious education.

GCSE Results: Religious Studies (full course)

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

	No. of schools	No. of candidates			% Excellence			% L2			% L1			Average subject score		
		B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ
2014	12	111	220	331	27.9	40.0	46.0	71.2	80.9	77.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	42	46	45
2013	12	126	262	388	38.9	46.6	44.1	79.4	84.7	83.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	45	47	46
2012	10	113	190	303	37.2	44.7	41.9	76.1	83.2	80.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	44	46	45
2011	12	128	266	394	24.2	41.7	36.0	62.5	75.9	71.6	99.2	96.2	97.2	40	43	42
2010		42	97	139	14.3	36.1	29.5	61.9	90.7	82.0	92.9	99.0	97.1	36	42	40

The average score achieved by the pupils in all subjects is not available to the system leader. 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.

Good results

- 331 candidates from 12 schools in Gwynedd. The average subject score is 45, one point less than last year. There are no candidates from Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn. Candidates from Ysgol Arduwy travel to Ysgol Eifionydd in order to follow a GCSE course.
- Class sizes vary from 8 pupils in one school to 138 in another.
- 36% of the candidates have gained A*/A (Excellence), 8.1% fewer than last year. 77% of candidates have gained Level 2 (A*- C), 6.6% fewer than last year. These results suggest that results have reverted to standards achieved in 2011 following two years of improvement (2012, 2013).
- All candidates have attained a Level 1 qualification in Religious Education during the last three years.
- More girls than boys choose Religious Studies as a GCSE option, (B 111 : G 220).
- The results achieved by the girls are better than those achieved by the boys. The average score achieved by the girls is 45 in comparison with the average score of 42 achieved by the boys. +8 represents a GCSE grade. However this year's L2 results suggest that the gap between boys and girls has increased for the first time in four years. The gap between the percentage of boys and girls attaining A*/A is 12.1% which is greater than 2013 (7.7%) and 2012 (7.5%).

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.

	No. of schools	No. of candidates			% Excellence			% L2			% L1			Average subject score		
		B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ	B	G	Σ
2014	7	122	168	288	25.4	40.4	34.0							23	26	25
2013	9	145	253	398	0.0	0.0	0.0	71.0	79.1	76.1	97.2	97.6	97.5	21	23	22
2012	3	17	38	55	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.8	84.2	76.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	18	22	20
2011	6	121	134	255	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.3	67.2	57.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	18	21	19
2010		223	323	546	0.9	3.7	2.6	62.8	82.4	74.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	22	25	23

Religious Studies is an optional examination subject at GCSE. A few schools have adopted the WJEC Religious Studies course as an accreditation for all pupils who follow the statutory Religious Education course. The range of subjects, examination boards and modular examinations makes it difficult to determine a mean score for all subjects. It is inappropriate therefore to compare school performances and pupils' performance in RE and other subjects. However this information is available in each school and RE heads of department are expected to refer to pupils' performance in other subjects as they self-evaluate standards in religious education.

SACRE's Recommendations to Gwynedd Council

- Ensure that RE teachers are able to access the subject guidance offered by WJEC;
- Facilitate professional learning communities for religious education teachers to share good practice.