

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Additional Information

Agenda Item 7 – RE Examination Results

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Religious Studies at GCSE (Key Stage 4) and A-Levels, 2012/13

GCSE results (end of Key Stage 4 results)

A total of 1,148 end of Year 11 pupils were entered for Religious Studies at GCSEs (both Full and Short courses), an increase in the previous year but still below numbers in 2008/09.

Religious Studies GCSEs entries in Swindon	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
GCSE Full course	257	286	323	370	393
GCSE Short course	1051	878	765	610	755
Total	1308	1164	1088	980	1148

The table above shows that 2012/13 recorded the highest number of pupils entered for Full GCSE courses over a 5 year period. All secondary schools entered students for Religious Studies examinations in 2012/13. The largest numbers of examination entries were from St Joseph's. Only Commonweal and Dorcan did not enter pupils for the Full GCSE course.

In terms of pupils entered for Religious Studies GCSEs (Full and Short course) as a proportion of all end of Year 11 pupils, 2012/13 saw an increase in the proportion against the previous year but lower figures than in 2008/09. Comparative data suggests that more pupils across England are entered for Religious Studies GCSEs.

Entered for Religious Studies GCSEs as proportion of all Key Stage 4 pupils	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Swindon	58%	54%	49%	43%	50%
England	67%	67%	66%	65%	64%

In terms of proportion achieving an A*-C GCSE, the table below shows an increase in attainment for both Full and Short GCSEs in 2012/13 when compared to the previous year. It also shows Swindon with a higher proportion of A*-C results in Full GCSE courses.

Achieved A*-C	GCSE Full Course					GCSE Short Course				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Swindon	81%	79%	84%	73%	79%	54%	49%	48%	45%	51%
England	72%	72%	72%	73%	72%	52%	52%	51%	50%	50%

As a percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 entering the subject

GCE A and AS Level Religious Studies

A total of 55 students were entered for Religious Studies at A level and AS level, lower than in the previous year. The largest number of examination entries came from New College.

Religious Studies A/AS level entries in Swindon	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
A level	29	36	49	47	36
AS level	14	12	19	20	19
Total	43	48	68	67	55

In terms of pupils achieving A*-B in A level, Swindon had higher results in 2012/13 than in the previous year and higher than the national average. In terms of pupils achieving A*-B in AS level, Swindon had lower results in 2012/13 than in the previous year and lower than the national average.

Please note that percentages can be affected by the small number of A/AS level entries in Religious Studies each year.

Achieved A*-B	A level					AS level				
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Swindon	59%	36%	39%	32%	58%	21%	17%	42%	40%	16%
England	53%	50%	53%	52%	52%	31%	30%	30%	30%	29%

As a percentage of pupils at the end of A/AS level study entering the subject