

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
5th February 2020
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and
Communities
Report on the analysis of 2019 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 2019 GCSE- full course and the GCE Advanced Level Religious studies examined in Summer 2019.

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 2019 in examinations held in Summer 2018 is attached to this report.
4.2 Key issues identified in the analysis are as follows:

GCSE and A level Results

There have been changes to the GCSE regulations regarding assessment. The majority of pupils who undertook their GCSE studies were assessed in 2019 on a scale of 1-9, not A* to C/A* to G grades. (Grade 9 being the highest grading).

The number of schools entering students for the GCSE course continues to fall- at Nationwide and in Staffordshire.

From year to year schools leave the maintained sector and become academies. This is true across the country and in Staffordshire.

In 2017 the results of 16 Staffordshire schools were analysed.

In 2018 this decreased to 13 schools. 2019 shows again results for 13 schools.

In 2020 this number will decrease further

There is a similar picture for A level schools with only 6 Staffordshire maintained schools to be analysed.

Overall, we need to be mindful that there is a dip in standards this year which could be further attributed to the new grading and the raising of the challenge within the GCSE syllabus. The results for male and female pupils show that more girls are entered for Religious Studies at GCSE and A level than boys and girls achieve better results overall in

GCSEs. This is reflected in the National picture. The gap between A level boys and girls' achievement is diminishing.

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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