

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

**GWYNEDD
ANNUAL REPORT**

September 2008 - August 2009

Head of School Services : Dewi Jones

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SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SACRE's function in relation to Religious Education

A clear outline of SACRE's function is given in the Welsh Office Circular 10/94

SACRE advises the LEA on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship, and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference, to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

1.1 Introduction by the Chairperson

To follow

ACCAC (2005) notes:

"This section should include a brief summary of the advice that has been given to the LEA within the reporting period stating whether the LEA has acted on or intends to act on the advice given."

Councillor Selwyn Griffiths

SECTION 2: ADVICE TO GWYNEDD EDUCATION AUTHORITY

2.1 SACRE's function in relation to Religious Education

A clear outline of SACRE's function is given in the Welsh Office Circular 10/94.

SACRE advises the LEA on matters relating to the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship, and is responsible for the establishment of an ad hoc body, the Agreed Syllabus Conference, to produce or consider amendments to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

2.2 The Agreed Syllabus

All of the county's primary, secondary and special schools follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus (2008). The document is promoted during inset sessions and visits to schools. Materials to support the Agreed Syllabus are developed as part of the training programme.

2.3 Standards of Religious Education

Gwynedd SACRE monitor standards in religious education by reviewing school inspection reports, and by receiving summaries of schools' self-evaluation documents.

2.3.1 During the year, 18 inspection reports on schools in Gwynedd were presented; the following sections of each report were submitted for the attention of SACRE:

- school name
- name of inspection team
- the appropriate section on pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development as evidence of the school's and the inspection team's response to Key Question 3: ***How well do the learning experiences satisfy the needs and the interests of the pupils and community?***
- the report on Religious Education as evidence of the school's and the inspection team's response to Key Question 1: ***How well do learners achieve?***
- any other relevant key matter

Number of reports received:	Primary	17
	Secondary	1

2.3.2 Religious Education: Key question 1: How well do learners achieve?

Religious Education was inspected as a nominated subject in 6 schools.

	Grade 1 Good with outstanding features	Grade 2 Good features and no significant shortcomings	Grade 3 Good features which outweigh the shortcomings	Grade 4 Some good features but shortcomings in important areas	Grade 5 Many significant shortcomings
KS1	*	2			
KS2	1	2			
KS3					
KS4					
KS5					
Total	1	4			

*One school was a pilot school for the Foundation Phase. Religious Education was not inspected as a separate subject for pupils under 7 years old in this school.

The inspections followed the usual pattern of referring to good and outstanding features and deficiencies. In each instance, the good features outweighed the deficiencies. In two schools, no significant deficiencies were identified. A congratulatory letter in SACRE's name was sent to schools acknowledging the good work.

Good features were observed in many schools:

Outstanding features (one school)

- In KS2, through their thorough study of Christianity and other religions, pupils increasingly develop their thinking skills and their ability to express opinions and feelings. They are open-minded and have a positive outlook towards people of different viewpoints. They regularly think about important questions that arise from religion and human life.

Good features (the majority of schools)

- The pupils are able to successfully recall many stories from the Bible. The older pupils analyse and interpret layers of meaning in a story and identify with the character in a highly mature fashion. They apply parables to modern day situations in a very effective manner.
- Pupils have very good knowledge and understanding of other religions and make sensible comparisons between the similarities and differences in different religions. They describe some of their main celebrations and rituals with confidence, describing how they affect the lifestyles of their followers.
- Pupils have opportunities to visit places of worship in the community. This adds much to their knowledge and understanding of Christian practices and festivals as well as the historical importance of the Christian faith in Wales. This is enhanced by stories relating very effectively to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.
- Pupils of all ages know of the contributions made by leaders and benefactors and the way personal beliefs have influenced people's way of life.
- Pupils reflect and form their own views of religious issues very well. They can apply the lessons of moral and religious stories to modern day situations. They can discuss concepts such as: sharing, care, friendship, forgiveness, obedience and

conscience. Some pupils were able to ask mature and penetrating religious questions.

Shortcomings (one school)

- The ability of Y5 and Y6 pupils to raise issues from their own personal experience has not been fully developed.

As a matter of course, attention is given to identified deficiencies by the school, LEA officers, the humanities adviser and the advisory teacher. If they are present in several schools, then this influences the in-service training programme. If an inspection report describes standards as unsatisfactory the schools formulate a post-inspection action plan and receive additional support from the advisory service.

2.3.3 Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Key question 3: How well do the learning experiences satisfy the needs and the interests of the pupils and community?

Each inspection team reports on pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The relevant sections of 18 school inspection reports were submitted to the attention of SACRE members..

	Grade 1 Good with outstanding features	Grade 2 Good features and no significant shortcomings	Grade 3 Good features which outweigh the shortcomings	Grade 4 Some good features but shortcomings in important areas	Grade 5 Many significant shortcomings
Primary schools	6	11			
Secondary schools		1			
Total	6	12			

Some of the good features highlighted in many schools are noted below:

- The promotion of pupils’ spiritual development is outstanding. Collective worship sessions are of a very high standard and offer pupils particularly good opportunities to reflect quietly and thoughtfully on important issues that affect their lives.
- The maturity of the pupils can be seen in their preparation for the weekly collective worship sessions. The collective worship sessions effectively promote pupils’ spiritual development.
- The broad based learning experiences and regular opportunities to participate in collective worship, circle time and the School Council, allow pupils to discuss issues which are important to them. These experiences help create a pleasant ethos in the school

Some deficiencies were noted in some schools:

- Insufficient attention is given to the element of worship and, as a result, pupils' spiritual development is insufficiently developed.
- There are few opportunities for personal reflection in the sessions of collective worship and religious education lessons.

2.3 The Self Evaluation Process

Cwmni Cynnal has provided a handbook for primary and secondary school offering them guidance regarding the self-evaluation procedure and the criteria they should be measuring themselves against. Guidelines are also provided on observing in lessons, collating examples of work, use of language, ensuring consistency through the whole department and discussion with pupils.

Teachers are referred to the 7 questions that form the basis of ESTYN's inspection procedure:

1. How well do learners achieve? – Religious Education as a subject will be evaluated under this question;
2. How effective is the teaching and assessment?
3. How well do the learning experiences satisfy the needs and the interests of the pupils and community?
4. How good is the care, the guidance and the support given to pupils – the standard of spiritual and moral provision within the school will be evaluated against this criteria?
5. How effective is the leadership and management?
6. How well do the leaders and the managers evaluate and improve quality and standards:
7. How efficiently do the leaders and the managers use resources?

It was resolved in the meeting on 23 February 2005 that Gwynedd SACRE would receive a copy of the self evaluation of a school that receive inspections when there is no specific report on Religious Education, during the year when the school is inspected.

15 self evaluation reports were received during the year:	secondary	1
	primary	14

The report is a record of the school's respond to key questions 1 and 3 of the inspection framework. Schools submit their concise judgement on the main strengths of learners' achievement and note the aspects which will be addressed in the next two years. They also submit their concise judgement on the way the learning experiences promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and note the aspect which the schools hope to address during the coming year.

Following the self evaluation process, schools awarded the following grades:

	How well do pupils achieve?					How well do learning experiences met the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?				
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Primary	1	7				1	7			
Secondary										
Total	1	7				1	7			

*No grades were submitted by one secondary school and one primary school.

Schools were proud of aspect such as:

- the programme of study and the learning experiences planned for pupils;
- pupils' knowledge and understanding of religious stories, practices and places of worship;
- pupils' enthusiastic participation in the collective worship sessions;
- pupils' spiritual development;
- pupils' ability to discuss religious issues and questions;
- pupils' awareness of the community's Christian heritage through school visits and by welcoming visiting speakers.

The aspects which will be addressed by schools during the next year include:

- continuing to respond to the requirements of the Locally Agreed Syllabus and the 2008 Curriculum;
- identifying key skills in the learning plans;
- ensuring that Religious Education and PSE lessons contain clear objectives so as to show where the two subjects overlap and differ.
- raising and discussing fundamental questions.

2.5 How well do learners achieve?

KS3 Standards 2007

KS3 results are presented as information only. 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 the same assessment tasks and teachers do not meet regularly to moderate their pupils work with other departments. The Welsh Assembly Government does not collect religious education data but CYNNAL has collected pupils' end of KS3 attainment levels in religious education since 1999.

Ysgol	Canlyniadau CA3									
	E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5+
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen (85)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	3.5 (3)	24.7 (21)	38.8 (33)	27.1 (23)	5.9 (5)	0.0 (0)	71.8 (61)
Ysgol Botwnnog (107)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	1.9 (2)	15.0 (16)	25.2 (27)	38.3 (41)	19.6 (21)	0.0 (0)	83.2 (89)
Ysgol Brynrefail (127)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	3.1 (4)	24.4 (31)	33.1 (42)	25.2 (32)	14.2 (18)	0.0 (0)	72.4 (92)
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle (100)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	3.0 (3)	17.0 (17)	39.0 (39)	29.0 (29)	12.0 (12)	0.0 (0)	80.0 (80)
Ysgol Eifionydd (92)	1.1 (1)	0.0 (0)	1.1 (1)	4.3 (4)	3.3 (3)	34.8 (32)	46.7 (43)	8.7 (8)	0.0 (0)	90.2 (83)
Ysgol Y Gader (60)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	5.0 (3)	21.7 (13)	31.7 (19)	41.7 (25)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	73.3 (44)
Ysgol Y Moelwyn (81)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	6.2 (5)	13.6 (11)	48.1 (39)	25.9 (21)	6.2 (5)	0.0 (0)	80.2 (65)
Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn (89)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	2.2 (2)	69.7 (62)	28.1 (25)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	28.1 (25)
Ysgol Y Berwyn (73)	1.4 (1)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	1.4 (1)	21.9 (16)	37.0 (27)	19.2 (14)	19.2 (14)	0.0 (0)	75.3 (55)
Ysgol Ardudwy (78)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	2.6 (2)	16.7 (13)	53.8 (42)	23.1 (18)	3.8 (3)	0.0 (0)	80.8 (63)
Ysgol Friars (226)	3.1 (7)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	2.2 (5)	11.5 (26)	52.2 (118)	21.7 (49)	7.1 (16)	2.2 (5)	83.2 (188)
Ysgol Tryfan (57)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	3.5 (2)	8.8 (5)	33.3 (19)	35.1 (20)	19.3 (11)	0.0 (0)	87.7 (50)
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen (131)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.8 (1)	14.5 (19)	9.9 (13)	38.2 (50)	18.3 (24)	16.8 (22)	1.5 (2)	74.8 (98)
Ysgol Glan y Môr (106)	1.9 (2)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	11.3 (12)	18.9 (20)	42.5 (45)	16.0 (17)	9.4 (10)	0.0 (0)	67.9 (72)
Gwynedd (1412)	0.8 (11)	0.0 (0)	0.1 (2)	4.7 (67)	18.9 (267)	39.4 (557)	25.2 (356)	10.3 (145)	0.5 (7)	75.4 (1,065)
Cynnal (2588)	0.8 (21)	0.0 (1)	0.2 (4)	4.5 (116)	21.1 (545)	39.9 (1,032)	23.6 (612)	9.7 (250)	0.3 (7)	73.5 (1,901)

E = number who were not awarded 1 - 8

GCSE results – ‘Religious Studies’ 2008

Canlyniadau TGAU yn ôl cohort 15 oed (yn cynnwys GNVQ Rhan 1 Sylfaenol a Chanolradd)																		
Pwnc	Nifer yn sefyll			% A*/A			% A*-C			% A*-G			Sgôr Cyfartalog y pwnc			Sgôr Cyfartalog pynciau eraill		
	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	2	10	12	0.0	40.0	33.3	50.0	90.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.5	5.9	5.7	4.5	5.3	5.2 (0.5)
Ysgol Botwnnog	3	15	18	0.0	13.3	11.1	0.0	46.7	38.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.7	4.3	3.8	2.5	4.8	4.5 (-0.7)
Ysgol Brynrefail	7	10	17	14.3	10.0	11.8	57.1	40.0	47.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	5.2	4.9	5.0 (-0.8)
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle	6	11	17	0.0	9.1	5.9	83.3	81.8	82.4	100.0	90.9	94.1	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.7 (0.1)
Ysgol Eifionydd	0	17	17	0.0	29.4	29.4	0.0	58.8	58.8	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	5.2	5.2	0.0	4.8	4.8 (0.4)
Ysgol Y Gader	6	11	17	33.3	27.3	29.4	66.7	100.0	88.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.2	5.3	5.3 (0.7)
Ysgol Y Moelwyn	12	14	26	50.0	71.4	61.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.6	6.9	6.7	5.3	5.1	5.2 (1.5)
Ysgol Y Berwyn	12	17	29	25.0	23.5	24.1	75.0	82.4	79.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.6	5.5	5.6	6.0	5.8	5.9 (-0.4)
Ysgol Friars	3	4	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	14.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.0	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.4 (-0.1)
Ysgol Tryfan	0	17	17	0.0	35.3	35.3	0.0	88.2	88.2	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	5.9	5.9	0.0	5.5	5.5 (0.4)
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	2	6	8	0.0	83.3	62.5	100.0	83.3	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.5	6.8	6.5	5.5	6.6	6.3 (0.2)
Ysgol Glan y Môr	0	12	12	0.0	66.7	66.7	0.0	91.7	91.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	6.6	6.6	0.0	6.1	6.1 (0.5)
Gwynedd	53	144	197	22.6	34.0	31.0	71.7	75.7	74.6	100.0	99.3	99.5	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.3	5.2 (0.2)
Cynnal	133	372	505	19.5	39.5	34.3	71.4	83.3	80.2	99.2	99.5	99.4	5.2	5.9	5.7	5.1	5.4	5.3 (0.4)
Cymru*			5,891						71.3			98.6						

*Canlyniadau Cymru (pob bwrdd arholi).

Trends over three years

	A*/A%			A* - C%			A - G		
	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06
Gwynedd	31.0	17.7	28.5	74.6	49.4	74.6	99.5	100	100
CYMRU		24.3	24.6	71.3*	63.2	63.9	98.6*	96.9	96.3

*Results for Wales (all examination boards)

Comments

Good results.

- 197 candidates, 63 girls and 16 boys, which is less than the 79 who sat the examination last year.
- Pupils from 12 Gwynedd schools (14) sat the full GCSE course and numbers vary from 7 pupils in one school to 29 in the other.
- Daw'r ymgeiswyr o 12 o ysgolion Gwynedd (14), gyda'r niferoedd yn amrywiol o 7 disgybl mewn un ysgol i 29 mewn ysgol arall.
- Generally, the girls' results are better than the boys' results.
- 99.5% gained a GCSE grade (full course) with 74.6% achieving grades A*-C. 31% achieved a A*/A grade.
- The average subject score of 5.4 is slightly higher than the score of 5.2 for the other subjects.
- The average subject score achieved by the girls (5.5) is slightly higher than their average score in other subjects (5.3), and the average subject score achieved by the boys (5.2) is slightly higher than their average score in other subjects (5.1)

GCSE results – ‘Religious Studies’ (short course) 2008

Canlyniadau TGAU yn ôl cohort 15 oed (yn cynnwys GNVQ Rhan 1 Sylfaenol a Chanolradd)																		
Pwnc	Nifer yn sefyll			% A*/A			% A*-C			% A*-G			Sgôr Cyfartalog y pwnc			Sgôr Cyfartalog pynciau eraill		
	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	2	10	12	0.0	30.0	25.0	50.0	90.0	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.0	2.8	2.7	4.5	5.3	5.2 (-2.5)
Ysgol Botwnnog	5	16	21	0.0	6.3	4.8	0.0	25.0	19.0	40.0	100.0	85.7	0.2	1.6	1.3	2.3	4.7	4.2 (-3.0)
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle	6	10	16	0.0	10.0	6.3	50.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	4.5	4.8	4.7 (-2.6)
Ysgol Eifionydd	3	20	23	33.3	35.0	34.8	100.0	60.0	65.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.3	2.7	2.7	4.8	5.2	5.1 (-2.4)
Ysgol Y Gader	6	12	18	16.7	33.3	27.8	83.3	83.3	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	5.2	5.2	5.2 (-2.4)
Ysgol Y Moelwyn	12	14	26	66.7	64.3	65.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.5	3.7	3.6	5.3	4.9	5.1 (-1.5)
Ysgol Y Berwyn	12	22	34	8.3	13.6	11.8	50.0	72.7	64.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	6.0	5.8	5.9 (-3.3)
Ysgol Friars	4	4	8	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	12.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.8	1.5	1.6	3.8	3.2	3.5 (-1.9)
Gwynedd	50	108	158	22.0	25.9	24.7	62.0	64.8	63.9	94.0	100.0	98.1	2.4	2.6	2.5	5.0	5.1	5.1 (-2.6)
Cynnal	273	395	668	22.0	29.9	26.6	65.2	73.2	69.9	98.2	98.5	98.4	2.5	2.7	2.6	4.7	4.9	4.8 (-2.2)
Cymru*																		

Three year trends

	A*/A%			A* - C%			A - G		
	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06
Gwynedd	24.7	30.1	34.1	63.9	88.3	74.6	98.1	100	100
CYMRU		17.8*	16.7		56.7*	62.9		94.5*	95.0

*

Comments

Good results.

- 158 candidates, 132 girls and 31 boys which is less than the previous year's entry of 163.
- Pupils from 8 schools (14) sat the GCSE short course and the numbers range from 1 in one school to 57 in another school.
- The girls' results are better than the boys' results.
- 98.1% were successful in achieving a GCSE (short course) grade with 63.9% achieving a A*-C grade. 24.7% achieved a A*/A grade.

A-Level Results – Religious Studies 2008

Canlyniadau Lefel A yn ôl cohort blwyddyn 13 wedi sefyll arholiad																		
Pwnc	Nifer yn sefyll			% A			% A-C			% A-E			Sgôr Cyfartalog y pwnc			Sgôr Cyfartalog pynciau eraill		
	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	0	3	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	13.3	13.3	0.0	22.5	22.5 (-9.2)
Ysgol Brynrefail	1	0	1	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	120.0	0.0	120.0	120.0	0.0	120.0 (0.0)
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle	1	2	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	86.7	86.7	70.0	75.6 (11.1)
Ysgol Y Berwyn	0	1	1	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	120.0	120.0	0.0	120.0	120.0 (0.0)
Gwynedd	2	6	8	50.0	16.7	25.0	100.0	50.0	62.5	100.0	66.7	75.0	110.0	53.3	67.5	103.3	60.0	70.8 (-3.3)
Cynnal	9	80	89	22.2	28.8	28.1	88.9	86.3	86.5	100.0	97.5	97.8	93.3	93.3	93.3	90.9	91.0	91.0 (2.2)

Treigl tair blynedd

	A%			A* - C%			A - E		
	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06
Gwynedd (schools)	25	20	23.5	62.5	64	82.4	75	96	100
Cymru		21.2	14.4		76.0	64.3		98.7	97.5

Comments

Satisfactory results.

- 8 candidates, 6 girls and 2 boys.
- Candidates entered from 4 secondary schools with numbers ranging from 1 to 3 candidates.
- 75% achieved and A Level grade.
- The mean subject score is 67.5 which is a little lower than the 70.8 in other subjects.
- The boys' results (2 candidates) are better than the girls' results. The girls' subject score (53.3) is lower than the score for other subjects (60.0) and the boys' mean subject score (110.0) is higher than the mean score for other subjects (103.3).

Advanced Subsidiary Results – Religious Studies 2008

Canlyniadau Lefel AS yn ôl cohort blwyddyn 12 wedi sefyll arholiad																		
Pwnc	Nifer yn sefyll			% A			% A-C			% A-E			Sgôr Cyfartalog y pwnc			Sgôr Cyfartalog pynciau eraill		
	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C	B	M	C
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	0	10	10	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	30.0	0.0	90.0	90.0	0.0	31.0	31.0	0.0	32.7	32.7
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle	0	1	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	30.0	30.0	0.0	16.7	16.7
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	1	1	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	40.0	45.0	52.5	30.0	41.3
Gwynedd	1	12	13	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	38.5	100.0	91.7	92.3	50.0	31.7	33.1	52.5	31.4	33.1
Cynnal	8	130	138	25.0	23.8	23.9	50.0	63.8	63.0	87.5	93.8	93.5	37.5	40.1	39.9	35.8	40.9	40.7

Three year trends

	A*/A%			A* - C%			A - E		
	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06	'08	'07	'06
Gwynedd (schools)	0	9.1	15.4	38.5	66	82.4	92.3	96	65.4
Cymru		16.1	15.2		59.2	54.0		91.2	87.8

Comments

Disappointing results

- 13 candidates, 9 girls and 2 boys.
- Candidates entered from 3 secondary schools. Class sizes range from 1 to 10 pupils.
- 92.3.% of candidates achieved an AS grade. 38.5% achieved a B/C grade but none was awarded an A grade.
- The mean subject score is 33.1 which is comparable to the score achieved in other subjects.

2.6 The reponse of the Local Education Authority

The quality and development of educational provision in Gwynedd schools during the school year was reported upon through the Annual Report on the Education Service.

Gwynedd's Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11

Strategic Aim 2 : Education and Learning experiences

"To ensure that the children and young people of Gwynedd have access to a range of education and learning opportunities to enable them to fulfil their potential."

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA
2.1 Enabling every child and young person to fulfil their full learning potential	2.1.1 Providing the best education, training and skills opportunities for all
2.2 Supporting children and young people with additional learning needs and children and young people in special circumstances	2.2.1 Supporting the full inclusion of learners with additional learning needs and children and young people in special circumstances
2.3 Providing a wide range of quality youth support services	2.3.1 Promoting and coordinating developments relating to youth support services

Anglesey Education Authority and Gwynedd Education Authority provide financial support to CYNNAL (the advisory service). CYNNAL appoints an Humanities Adviser to be responsible for Geography, History, Religious Education and Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship and to provide curriculum support to the primary and secondary schools of the two authorities. A part time secondment (0.5 in 2009-9) is also offered to an advisory teacher.

2.6.1 The support of the advisory service

Primary and secondary schools within the county receive the support of the Humanities Advisor and the part time Religious Education Advisory Teacher as they visit schools as part of the 'entitlement programme'. They support teachers as they plan programmes of study and assessment plans, prepare classroom activities and select suitable classroom resources. Developing thinking skills and assessment for learning is a priority for many of

the county's teachers. CYNNAL supports schools that are preparing for inspection by helping teachers and departments to self evaluate standards in religious education. The Advisory Teacher's role is invaluable as a means of disseminating good practice, developing interesting classroom activities and supporting teachers as they prepare for the future.

The Humanities Adviser and advisory teacher report on their work at SACRE meetings. These presentations provide a platform for sharing recent developments, pedagogical matters and resources and an overview of the work done with the LEA's schools. The discussions of 2008-9 have focussed on sharing good classroom practice, evaluating new teaching resources and the provision of religious education for post 16 pupils.

The Humanities Adviser attends the National Advisory Panel for Religious Education meetings and meetings of the Wales Association of SACREs. These meetings provide national forums to discuss matters relevant to Religious Education.

Mrs Carol Llewelyn Jones – Religious Education Advisory teacher

Mrs Carol Llewelyn Jones was appointed as a part time advisory teacher in January 2007. She has been busy preparing and delivering courses for the county's secondary teachers and supporting individual departments as they respond to the self evaluation process and prepare for school inspections. Unfortunately, long term illness during 2008-9 has limited the support that Mrs Jones was able to offer to the secondary sector.

2.7 In-service training

2.7.1 Report on In-service training 2008-9

As part of the Service Level Agreement with the schools, the LEA provides INSET for teachers employed by the Authority. The Education Strategic Plan notes the importance of the training programme as a means of ensuring that teachers receive information about new developments, disseminate good practice and work together to develop learning and teaching strategies and appropriate materials. The aim is to ensure that the training programme meets schools' and teachers' requirements through consultation with teachers and professional tutors in schools. Subject panel meetings are held in some areas to discuss priorities and provide guidance on the training programme. In addition, attention was given to the Authority's priorities, ESTYN's comments, and to comments which appear in inspection reports.

Primary and secondary head teachers have agreed to close schools for two days to enable teachers to attend school based or consortia based training courses. The professional tutors were responsible for choosing the courses for secondary departments and the primary head teachers identified suitable courses for their colleagues.

Primary Inset Courses April 2008 – March 2009

Course Title	Number attending from Gwynedd
Cluster –Arfon (Spring) The new Locally Agreed Syllabus	21
Cluster – Meirion/Dwyfor (Spring) The new Locally Agreed Syllabus	21
A 5 day Humanities course which included a day's course on '2008 Curriculum – Religious Education'	16

Secondary Inset Courses April 2008 –March 2009

Course Title	Number attending from Gwynedd
Consortium – Môn and Arfon (Autumn) : The new Locally Agreed Syllabus	
Consortium - Arfon (Spring) Responding to the new Locally Agreed Syllabus	
Consortium – Meirion Dwyfor (Autumn) : The new Locally Agreed Syllabus	
Consortium – Meirion Dwyfor (Spring) Improving RE for 11-14 year olds: thinking, challenging, respecting and reflecting	

2.7.2 Training and special visits organised by Gwynedd and Anglesey SACREs

No training conference was held for teacher and SACRE members of Gwynedd and Anglesey during 2007-8.

2.7.3 INSET courses 2008-9

The following courses were submitted to the attention of primary headteachers as they prepared the in service training programme for their teachers:

- Responding to Gwynedd and Anglesey's new Agreed Syllabus.
- Religious education enquiries with KS2 pupils.
- "Help! I'm a subject co-ordinator!" Developing the rôle of the subject co-ordinator.

The following courses were submitted to the attention of secondary professional tutors and subject panels as they prepared the in service training programme for their teachers:

- Developing the contribution of RE to the skills strategies
- Teachers' Assessments at KS3

- Developing personal enquiries into religion in the local area, in Britain and the world.
- Using problem solving techniques, critical, creative and intuitive thinking to explore preconceptions, possibilities/explanations.

2.8 Religious Education and DCELLS

DCELLS and WASACRE convened a conference to discuss 'Religious Education for Young Adults 14-19 year old' at Flint and Cardiff on the 4th October 2008. Headteachers and deputies were invited to the conference. CYNNAL's humanities adviser attended the conference.

Subsequently DCELLS and WASACRE distributed bilingual guidelines and resources to the attention of Gwynedd secondary schools:

- Religious Education: Guidelines for learners 14-19 years old;
- BBC E-clips – information book, lesson plans and video clips.
- Dare2Engage

2.9 SACRE's function in relation to collective worship

Welsh Office Circular 10/94 notes that the LEA should work with SACRE to keep an eye on the daily collective worship provision, and should consider with it any steps which may be taken to improve such provision".

The collective worship must be "of a broadly Christian character". The "determination" procedure permits the suspension of these requirements in relation to some or all of the pupils in a school where they are deemed inappropriate.

A copy of the 'Supplementary guidance for inspecting collective worship in non-denominational schools (ESTYN, June 2008) was distributed to the members.

3.2 Determinations

There was no request from any school for a determination in relation to collective worship.

SECTION 3 : ANNEXES

3.1 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SACRE was established by Gwynedd Education Committee in 1996 to include:

Christians and Other Faiths, namely,

- The Methodist Church
- The Union of Welsh Baptists
- The Presbyterian Church of Wales
- The Church in Wales
- Union of Welsh Independents
- The Catholic Church

Teachers, namely;

- The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)
- National Union of Teachers in Wales (UCAC)
- National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
- National Union of Teachers (NUT)
- Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
- National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Elected members

The Education Committee has retained the right to nominate a SACRE Chairperson.

3.2 Gwynedd SACRE membership

Christians and Other Religions

The Methodist Church	-	Mr Wyn Meredith
Union of Welsh Baptists	-	Mrs Ruth Davies
Presbyterian Church of Wales	-	Mr.Gwyn Hefin Jones
The Church in Wales	-	Canon Reverend Tegid Roberts
Union of Welsh Independents	-	Mr Cynrig Hughes
The Catholic Church	-	Mrs Eirian Bradley Roberts

Teachers' Unions' Representatives

Welsh National Union of Teachers (UCAC)	-	Mr Noel Dyer
National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)	-	Mrs Gwenda M Jones
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	-	Mr Euron Hughes
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	-	<i>awaiting nomination</i>
National Association of Head teachers	-	Mr Robin Williams
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)	-	Mr Paul M Jones

Local Members

Councillors

Selwyn Griffiths (Chairman)	}	Plaid Cymru
Pat. Larsen	}	
Huw Edwards	}	Independent
Dafydd W Roberts	}	
Guto Rhys Thomas	}	
Aeron Jones	}	Llais Gwynedd
Stephen Churchman	}	Liberal Democrat

Ex-officio members

Chairman and Vice chairman of the Council
Evie Morgan Jones
Anne Lloyd Jones

Co-opted members (non-voting)

- Mr Rheinallt Thomas
- The Reverend Gwyn Rhydderch
- The Reverend Aled Davies

3.3 SACRE Meetings 2007-2008

Dates of meetings may be obtained by contacting the Clerk to SACRE. During 2008-2009, Gwynedd SACRE met on three occasions:

8	October	2008
11	February	2009
17	June	2009

The following matters were discussed and further details are provided in the main body of the report:

a) Meeting held on 8 October 2008

- Annual report (draft) Gwynedd SACRE 2007/2008
- KS3 standards and 2007 GCSE and A Level results
- Religious Education in the classroom – Ysgol Bro Lleu
- Religious Education Conference
- School inspections
- School self evaluations
- Wales Association of SACREs - submit papers for the meeting held at Mold on 26 June 2008.
- Correspondence

b) Meeting held on 11 February 2009

- School inspections
- School self evaluations
- Report by the Humanities Adviser
- Annual report (final) Gwynedd SACRE 2007/2008
- Wales Association of SACREs - submit papers for the meeting held at Cwmbran on 7 November 2008.
- Annual report (final) Gwynedd SACRE 2005/2006
- Correspondence

c) Meeting held on 17 June 2008

- Election of chairman and deputy chairman
- School inspections
- School self evaluations
- Religious Education in the classroom – Ysgol Bro Tryweryn
- Report by the Humanities Adviser
- Wales Association of SACREs - submit papers for the meeting held at Bridgend on 13 March 2009.

3.3.1 Gwynedd SACRE has affiliated with the Wales Association of SACREs and its members regularly attend meetings held by WASACRE.

The following representatives attended WASACRE meetings during the year:

- Mr Rheinallt Thomas (a member of the executive committee of WASACRE)
- Mr Wyn Meredith (Gwynedd SACRE)

The following observers attended WASACRE meetings during the year:

- Miss Bethan James – Humanities Adviser

3.3.2 The following provide SACRE with professional support:

Mr Dewi Jones, Head of School Services

Mr John Blake, Education officer for Meirion Dwyfor who serves as SACRE clerk.

Mr Ken Robinson, Assistant education officer

Miss Bethan James, Humanities Adviser, who serves Gwynedd and Môn as a member of CYNNAL, the Advisory Company.

Mrs Carol Llewelyn Jones, part time advisory teacher for Religious Education.

Mrs Glynda O'Brien, Committee Section, Resources Directorate, who minutes and administers SACRE.

Enquiries should be directed to the SACRE Clerk, Education Office, Council Offices, Caernarfon LL55 1SH.

3.4 A list of organisation to which the SACRE report was sent.

Copies of the annual report will be distributed to the following:

The Education, Culture and Services to Children and Young People Subject Committee

Gwynedd Local Education Authority Schools

The National Library of Wales

The Welsh Assembly

ACCAC (DELLS)

Welsh National Centre for Religious Education, School of Education, University

College of Wales, Bangor

Gwynedd Public Libraries

Wales Association of SACREs