



## 0.1 Foreword from the Executive Director - Children's Services

I am delighted to be able to give my overwhelming support to the Local Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Barnsley. Religious Education, an important curriculum subject, which makes a vital contribution to the moral, spiritual, social and cultural development of our students, as well as supporting community cohesion.

This current Syllabus reflects the ever-evolving curriculum in our schools and allows teachers a greater flexibility of approach. The six key questions which run through the whole of the World Religion section (revised in 2020) focus on special words, places, times, community cohesion, the lives of significant people of faith, and life and the universe around us. Pages have recently been added including useful publications and websites for each World Religion. Further recent additions to our Syllabus and website included a new photo gallery, an updated Assessment Section and advice for school visits to a variety of places of worship. The syllabus is constantly under review to reflect new local and national RE initiatives.

I recommend this Local Agreed Syllabus to governing bodies, head teachers and teachers of religious education in classrooms throughout the borough. It sets out the statutory requirements for religious education and provides much helpful guidance to support learning. I recommend it also to faith groups, who may take confidence in the fact that religious education is a valued part of the curriculum. Finally, I recommend it to children and young people in our schools, and to their parents, carers and families. I am confident it will promote increased understanding of this area of the curriculum and support greater achievement in the subject.

The recent revision and development in 2020, of the SACRE website – [www.barnsley.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sacre) allows all groups greater access to the Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus, the SACRE Annual Report and a range of support materials.

The best accolade for our Local Agreed Syllabus will be in the high standards achieved by the children and young people of Barnsley, the high quality of learning and teaching available in religious education in our schools, and the impact that religious literacy and a reflective appreciation of life's deeper questions may bring to the fulfilment of individuals and the relationships for communities in Barnsley.

Local authorities are required to review their Local Agreed Syllabus every five years - for this purpose we convened an Agreed Syllabus Conference on 11 February 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Barnsley SACRE, including elected members, teachers and representatives of different faith groups and denominations, who work tirelessly to promote exemplary RE teaching in our schools and Advanced Learning Centres.



Mel John-Ross  
Executive Director Children's  
Services