



## Foreword from the Executive Director of Children's Services – Carly Speechley

I am delighted to be able to give my overwhelming support to the Local Agreed RE Syllabus for 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 in approach. The six key questions which run through the whole of the World Religion section focus on special words, places, times, community cohesion, the lives of significant people of faith, and life and the universe around us.

Pages have been added including useful publications and websites for each World Religion. Further recent and updated additions to our syllabus and website include an assessment section, advice for school visits to a variety of places of worship, and the [Barnsley RE Trail](#) including information on Monk Bretton Priory, the James Hudson Taylor Trail and Central Barnsley Churches. The syllabus is constantly under review to reflect new local and national RE initiatives.

I recommend this Local Agreed Syllabus to Governing bodies, Headteachers, and Teachers of RE 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 their parents, carers and families. I am confident that it will promote increased understanding of this area of the curriculum and support greater achievement in the subject. The regular revision 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 Reports 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 in February 2025.

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 R.E teaching in our schools and Advanced Learning Centres.