



# The Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus

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## 1.1 Introduction from the Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference

**As Chair of the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) and Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus working groups, I heartily recommend this revised edition of Barnsley's Local Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education to all educational practitioners in Barnsley.**

Locally, we are seeing a growing diversity in our school populations, offering new experiences and challenges to pupils and staff. During the last few years we have seen new residents in Barnsley from a growing number of countries including Poland, Kosovo, Czech Republic, Albania, Republic of Latvia, Portugal and Africa. We now have the most diverse population that Barnsley has ever known. 'Religion and beliefs for many people forms a crucial part of their culture and identity' (DCSF 2010)

Current statistics inform us that the Black and Ethnic Minority Community in Barnsley has increased from 0.9% in 2001 to 4.1% in 2007. However, although this is a significant increase, Barnsley still has a low proportion of BME residents compared with the rest of South Yorkshire and the country as a whole.

We have attempted to create a Syllabus in line with the needs of this diverse population and current educational thinking (eg Religious Education Non-Statutory Guidance – DCSF 2010) - accessible to all teachers, particularly those with little or no specialist knowledge.

This 2010 revision has included reducing the number of Key Questions in the World Religion section from nine to six, combining Key Questions two and six, three, four and eight. We hope this will eliminate unnecessary duplication and assist smaller schools in planning.

**NB** If a world religion is covered at Key Stage Two only, SACRE would recommend that students are introduced to Key Stage One concepts as a lead into the Key Stage Two syllabus.

The areas of Assessment have been revised and to help teachers we have checked the **I can...** statements in the suggested Assessment against the level descriptions from the QCDA non-statutory guidance and added the levels for easy reference to the statements. 'Community Cohesion' has been addressed in line with QCDA guidelines (Community Cohesion in action – QCDA Feb 2010)

At Key Stage Three, to assist with curriculum changes, the World Religion section has also been slimmed down to six key questions with a new bridging unit, entitled 'Ethics' (pages 29-34), added to stimulate the ever inquisitive minds of our young people in years eight and nine preparing for a smooth transition into the various GCSE Syllabuses in our future exciting new Advanced Learning Centres.

Support for the revised Syllabus will be given through development days - visiting various places of worship, Resource Fairs and at Subject Leaders' meetings, to facilitate its effective use. ICT is at the heart of our modern educational establishments bringing a diversity of world faiths into the classroom, particularly through the use of the internet and CD-ROMs. We have produced a new CD-ROM for the updated version of the Syllabus. A new IT initiative is presently being developed by the Barnsley Strategic IT group which will enable RE teachers to share planning, resources, websites and a host of new developments. This exciting new initiative should be available in the latter part of 2010.

SACRE strongly recommends a minimum allocation of curriculum time to deliver the RE Syllabus in our schools (2.3)

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Mr Phil Lawson (AED) Lifelong Learning, Achievement and Enterprise and Mrs Ruth Lyons Head of Learning and Standards Service for their constant encouragement and support and to all those talented practitioners in Barnsley who have contributed in any way to the new Syllabus (page 3). Thanks also to our Clerk to SACRE, Denise Masters and colleagues in the Admin Office, Margaret Lawton and Rachel Stecyszyn.

**SACRE is fully committed to supporting schools in their delivery of RE in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**



Roger Holmes  
Chair - Barnsley Agreed Syllabus Conference  
Consultant to SACRE



## 1.2 Membership of Barnsley SACRE

As we launch this Local Agreed Syllabus the membership of Barnsley SACRE is as follows:

**GROUP A: Christian and other religious denominations to reflect the principal religious traditions in the area (10 places)**

Mrs Smruti Desai  
Mr John Feasby  
Mr Nayeem A Jarrel  
Mr Loh Ks  
Mrs Rita Senior  
Mr Kuldip Sohanpal

**Representing**

Hindu  
Methodist (Barnsley Circuit)  
Islam  
Buddhist  
Baptist (Yorkshire Region)  
Sikh

**GROUP B: Church of England (5 places)**

Mrs Jenny Witty (Chair)  
Mrs Jo Wiles (Vice Chair)  
Mrs Gillian Bunn  
Mrs Brenda Hinchliff  
Mr David Horner

Wakefield Diocese  
Wakefield Diocese  
Wakefield Diocese  
Wakefield Diocese  
Sheffield Diocese

**GROUP C: Teaching Association (5 places)**

Mr Michael Bunce, Willowgarth  
Sarah Rhodes, The Kingstone  
Mrs Carol Turner, Royston St John's  
Mr Colin Wilkinson, Darfield Valley  
Mr Mathew Wilson, Royston High

ASCL  
NASUWT  
ATL  
NAHT  
NUT

**GROUP D: LEA Representatives (5 places)**

Councillor Tim Cheetham  
Councillor Janice Hancock  
Councillor Margaret Morgan  
Councillor John Wilson  
Councillor Jennifer Worton

LA Representative  
LA Representative  
LA Representative  
LA Representative  
LA Representative

**Adviser**

Mr Roger Holmes



## 1.3 The Local Agreed Syllabus Committees and the Agreed Syllabus Conference

**The process of drawing together the Local Agreed Syllabus is a complex one, examining needs across the key stages and different knowledge and experience.**

The 1996 Education Act requires the Local Authority to convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference every five years to review its Local Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

In the 2005 edition we were supported by Lat Blaylock, a consultant from RE Today, who met with the writing teams and the full SACRE on a number of occasions.

### **Agreed Syllabus Conference (2010 Revision)**

When the Agreed Syllabus Conference met on Tuesday 15 June 2010 the Local Agreed Syllabus was unanimously agreed for adoption, for use across the Authority from November 2010 for a period of five academic years.

### **Membership of the Agreed Syllabus Conference**

#### **Group A**

Mrs S Desai - Hindu  
Mr J Feasby - Methodist (Barnsley Circuit)

#### **Group B**

Mrs J Witty Wakefield Diocese  
Mrs J Wiles Wakefield Diocese  
Mrs G Bunn Wakefield Diocese  
Mrs B Hinchliff Wakefield Diocese  
Mr D Horner Sheffield Diocese

#### **Group C**

Mr M Bunce - ASCL  
Mrs C Turner - ATL

#### **Group D**

Cllr J Hancock - LA Representative  
Cllr J Wilson - LA Representative

#### **Adviser**

Mr R Holmes

#### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the following for their contributions in this process.

All the practitioners who contributed in any way to the revision of this Syllabus. Many hours have been expended by individuals and groups in the lengthy process of producing a quality document for use by all teachers of RE in the Barnsley Authority.

Many RE Subject Leaders from all Key Stages were involved in Network meetings in the early stages of the revision. For individual contributions and small group contributions, in addition to the Network meetings, I would like to particularly thank: Jenny Witty, Carol Turner, Smruti Desai, Gillian Bunn, Katrina Dalton, Matthew Wilson, Craig Cook and Jo Wiles.

In addition thanks also to Phil Lawson, (AED Lifelong Learning, Achievement and Enterprise) Ruth Lyons, (Head of Learning and Standards Service), the Clerk to SACRE, Denise Masters and colleagues in the Admin Office, Margaret Lawton and Rachel Stecyszyn.

**Roger Holmes  
Chair, ASC**