



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 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.



Foreword from the Chairperson of Barnsley SACRE



Mrs Jo Wiles
Chairperson
Barnsley SACRE

As Chairperson of SACRE, I am pleased to present to you the current Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

We hope that all Barnsley teachers find it helpful and of use in their teaching of R.E.

During the last few years SACRE members and practitioners from Barnsley schools have worked extremely hard to revise and develop the Barnsley Local Agreed Syllabus including the sections referring to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Assessment of Religious Education.

Our redesigned Annual Report [SACREreport 2023-24.pdf](#) which goes out to all schools includes, in our latest publication, a completely updated “Visits to Support Religious Education” appendix, various examples of good practice from schools, information from our latest SACRE / Teachers’ Development day and a “Useful Information” Section.

The World Religions section of the Syllabus completely revised in 2020, is now accessible to all interested parties on our website: www.barnsley.gov.uk/sacre

Additional sections have been added – a page of useful publications and websites, a table of acronyms used within each section and references to the global issue of climate change. We hope that this revision in addition to teacher network and support meetings will help our schools to meet the expectations of the current Ofsted Education Inspection Framework.

In future years, we aim to reflect in our syllabus any new initiatives in the teaching of R.E.

Finally, as Chairperson of SACRE I would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger Holmes for his continued enthusiasm and commitment in his role as adviser to SACRE, and personally for the support he has given me as Chairperson of SACRE.

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The Glossaries are based on QCA's "Religious Education: Glossary of Terms" (1994) who hold the copyright. Mark Cawte, Roger Holmes and Abdullah Bhan have developed these for our syllabus and should be acknowledged in any further developments.

Mark Cawte is the compiler of the Biographies, sections 7.1 and 7.2 and reserves his rights. Numerous works were consulted in the writing of these sections.

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