

THE SOLIHULL FAITH COVENANT

This Covenant is a joint commitment between Solihull's faith sector and Solihull Council, to a set of principles that inform and guide engagement and partnerships. It aims to promote open dialogue and collaboration, for the purposes of supporting faith-based social action, community development and community cohesion in Solihull.

The principles:

- *Faith communities are free to practise their beliefs and religious observances without restriction, to raise their voice in public debate and to be respected, within the framework of UK law.*
- *Council services and faith sector activities should respect people from all backgrounds, with no discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.*
- *The voices, experiences, ideas and opportunities that people working or volunteering in the faith sector bring are valued by the Council and add to the diversity of views and experiences within Solihull.*

Solihull Council, faith groups and organisations in Solihull will commit to working together to:

- *Promote and support faith-based social action and volunteering, on issues of shared interest. This is likely to include action on issues such as climate change, food poverty, homelessness, mental health and wellbeing, for instance.*
- *Promote and create opportunities and spaces for groups and organisations operating within the faith sector, to collaborate with groups and organisations operating within the voluntary, community, public and private sectors, on issues of shared interest.*
- *Continue to support the important work of the Faiths Forum, in creating opportunities and platforms for interfaith dialogue, relationships, events and activities. This includes developing the reach, visibility and profile of interfaith work and relationships in Solihull.*
- *Support faith and community leaders in Solihull, to proactively promote community cohesion, as well as ensure that everyone in the borough feels a sense of inclusion and belonging, within its neighbourhoods and communities.*
- *Ensure that children and young people in the Solihull family of schools receive their entitlement to high quality Religious Education.*

Putting the principles and commitments into action:

Solihull Council will work with the Faiths Forum, the Solihull Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), other relevant forums and groups, as well as with individual faith sector groups and organisations to develop and deliver an annual plan that will put the commitments and principles into action. This will be reviewed annually through the Council's democratic processes to help ensure these are being implemented and having a positive impact on Solihull.