

6 National Developments

National Awards

There are a number of awards for SACREs and RE at present and it is good to consider which we might like to apply for or encourage schools to apply for at some point.

Accord Inclusivity Award.

This award has been running for eight years and champions inclusivity. It tends to be awarded to a school each year, but in 2017 it will be awarded to SACREs. It is looking to reward SACREs that have worked hardest and gone the extra mile to boost the growth of inclusion, cohesions and mutual understanding between people of different religions and beliefs. A large part of the application form asks for details on 'implementation of being an inclusive SACRE'. Some suggestions from the nomination form of features of a SACRE's work that might be of interest are:

- building a relationship with local schools that are not required to follow the syllabus and forging partnerships with other agencies (such as local academy chains, multi-academy chains and faith school sponsors, or higher or further education providers)
- urging the local authority to ensure that the membership of the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference is diverse and representative, including of the non-religious
- considering the views of pupils, or developing a Youth SACRE or RE Ambassador programme
- support and guidance to schools on making assemblies and/or provision for SMSC development more inclusive
- creative use of Collective Worship determinations
- the production or commissioning of extra resources for teachers, such as with lesson or curriculum planning
- organising training for Governors or helping tackle gaps, training and Career Professional Development for teachers
- developing support and research networks
- celebrating successes by pupils and schools
- identifying an area of the SACRE's weakness and acting upon it
- targeted help to individual schools

The deadline for applying is December 12th 2016.

Westhill/NASACRE Awards.

These awards have been running since 2005 and take the form of grants. If a SACRE wishes to do a specific RE project, Westhill may well support it. Application forms usually have to be completed by around April time although there have been extensions given in the past.

RE Quality Mark.

This mark is given to schools in recognition of high quality RE. There are three levels: gold, silver and bronze.

NASACRE News

In light of the Brexit vote, Paul Smalley (Chair of NASACRE) signed an open letter to Justine Greening on behalf of NASACRE. The contents called on the government to renew its commitment to community cohesion as an essential part of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all young people. The letter acknowledged that the referendum has raised questions of identity and belonging for young people and asked for Justine Greening to listen to the good practice coming from both the RE community and other educational communities that could be helpful at this time. RE is an area where community concerns can be addressed in school, but is often squeezed out of the curriculum in favour of other subjects. The letter encourages the DfE to seek further conversation about the nature of British Values and identity and notes that All Party Parliamentary Group's recommendation that the impact of the EBacc on GCSE RS be reconsidered.

NASACRE would love us to join them on Twitter @NASACRE. The login details for their website are Username: **member1617** and Password: **Gr8RE4a7L!**

30/8/2016

... and an e-mail from Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE
Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education

Dear Grant,

Get recognition for your SACRE's work in national Award

I am writing to you as Clerk to the Havering Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education to urge that it consider applying for the [2017 Accord Inclusivity Award](#), which is seeking to reward those SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs. If your SACRE takes these aims seriously then please don't miss out on this rare opportunity for it to be recognised for its work. Until now the Award - which has run every year since 2010 - has rewarded schools in England and Wales that excel on these grounds. For the 2017 Award however judges have decided to only invite nominations for SACREs, given the important role SACREs can play through their work in promoting respect, empathy and social cohesion.

Religious Education has always been of key importance for Inclusivity Award judges, who have consistently rewarded schools for excellence in the subject (and often thanks to recommendations from SACREs). For example, the first placed school in 2013, Little Heath School in Redbridge, won [strong praise](#) from judges for its approach to RE which was later [highlighted](#) by Ofsted as an example for other

special schools to follow. Newbury Park Primary School in Ilford came first [in 2014](#) for its 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief' scheme that was supported by its SACRE and which served to help improve pupils understanding of the nature of faith and belief as a real life experience. The winning school in the 2016 Award, the Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham, [stood out](#) for the way in which its RE deepened and extended pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion and belief while simultaneously dealing with a range of controversial issues, such as around sexual diversity, homophobia and gender. But this coming year presents a chance for SACREs themselves to shine.

The Award is free to apply for. The full line up of another respected and experienced panel of experts will soon be announced. Previous judges have included former Secretary of State for Education, Lord Baker; the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Neil Carmichael MP; the then Chair of the Religious Education Council of England, John Keast OBE; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, and journalist Polly Toynbee.

RE is subject to many demands and pressures. If your SACRE works hard at trying to ensure local schools provide inclusive and high quality RE and assemblies that take seriously the promotion of the growth of mutual understanding between those of different beliefs and backgrounds, then please make sure someone is mandated to submit a [completed nomination](#) on its behalf.

For more information on the Award please visit Accord's website at <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017/>. The deadline for entries is Monday December 12th and prizes will be announced in the New Year. Please contact Accord's National Coordinator, Paul Pettinger, at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.

Every winner of the Inclusivity Award has received national press coverage for their success. Don't miss this chance to draw attention to you and your colleagues' efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE
Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education

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