

Applying for a Westhill/NASACRE Award

- **supporting**
- **strengthening**
- **promoting**

Aims for tonight's training

The fundamental aim is to enable a SACRE to submit a high-quality application for a Westhill/NASACRE Award

Within this session, we will:

- set out the context and rationale of the Awards
- explain the Awards cycle
- introduce the Awards Panel and how it does its work
- identify the factors that enhance Award applications
- hear about the experience of making an application

Introducing the Westhill/NASACRE Awards

- 1988 Education Reform Act – SACREs now statutory
- SACRE Forums : John Hull, Saltley Trust, Birmingham
- 1993 NASACRE formally launched
- Early admin base in Westhill Teacher Training College, Birmingham
- 2001 College sold to Birmingham University, retaining The Lodge on site
- Sale proceeds invested in the Westhill Endowment
- 2003 Queen’s Golden Jubilee – Prince of Wales hosts young people’s forums celebrating religious and ethnic diversity
- 2005 The Westhill/NASACRE Awards partnership begins
- Endowment Trustees review and re-commit funding annually



Who and what are the Awards for?

- Projects must be sponsored by SACREs, and should aim to develop RE/CW for pupils/schools in some way
- Up to £4,000 for each project, up to £20,000 per year altogether (one project per SACRE)
- Projects should offer pupils “compelling learning experiences in education into diversity”

The Awards sequence for 2021-22(1)

- Summer 2020: Trustees agree to release funds for 2021-22
- Autumn Term 2020: NASACRE advertises the new round of Awards, revises documentation, invites applications for Award projects to run in Academic Year 2021-22
- Applications to be in by end of March in 2021
- Awards Panel meets to review applications, April in 2021
- Names of successful SACREs announced at NASACRE's Annual Meeting in May, 2021
- A liaison rep is allocated to each SACRE project

The Awards sequence for 2021-2 (2)

- Diane Webb at The Lodge liaises with projects
- Projects enter into a contract with the Trustees of the Foundation prior to the start of Ac Yr 2021. The contract:
 - provides access to Westhill's website,
 - ensures safeguarding compliance,
 - agrees to the release of funding on reaching required trigger points,
 - commits projects to uploading material generated, and to a final report
- Projects begin in Academic Year 2021-2 as planned
- Funding released at agreed stages (one or two tranches)
- Projects completed, normally by end of Ac Yr 2022

The Awards Panel and how it operates

Current members of the Panel are:

Michael Metcalf (Convenor)

Naomi Anstice

Paul Smalley

Anne Andrews

Elizabeth Jenkerson

Mark Janes

Linda Rudge

These members are appointed by NASACRE's Executive Committee. In addition, a representative Trustee from Westhill either sits in on the Panel, or acts as a final check on behalf of the Trustees. Currently this is Julie Grove, MBE, former Secretary of NASACRE (and RE Adviser for Solihull).

The Awards Panel Meeting

- Panel members receive copies of the applications submitted in advance
- A preliminary grading is given to each submission.
 - Grade A - obvious frontrunners – credible, valid and realistic projects, well presented.
 - Grade C - submissions which do not meet the criteria in some way, or lack quality or coherence or substance in their presentation.
 - Grade B - submissions which are not clear fails, but neither do they carry full conviction; there may be areas of weakness or fuzziness in the presentation.
- Each submission is discussed in turn, at length. The grading is reviewed and a consensus is reached as far as possible.
- Successful projects identified in order, until the funding available has been allocated to the maximum.

After the Awards Panel Meeting

- Convenor liaises with the Westhill representative Trustee to confirm the Panel's decisions.
- Any loose ends followed up: e.g. the Panel may have agreed to an Award provisionally, and will negotiate confidentially with the SACRE/project about this. There may be a part-sum left over from the funding, which another project might be offered.
- Successful SACRE projects are announced at NASACRE's Annual Meeting, listed in SACRE Briefing, and contacted by the Convenor.
- Each successful project is linked with a named Panel member for liaison and support. Unsuccessful projects are contacted and invited to ask for feedback.

Preparing a high quality Awards application

Basic

advice:

Read the Briefing Notes

Make sure your project fits the criteria and is realistic

Indicate clearly how your project will be led and delivered

Provide a credible budget, showing what the Award money will be spent on

Look at examples of successful applications to the Briefing Notes)

The Briefing Notes (extract)

WHEN APPLYING, you must show clearly how your project:

- promotes education into diversity among young people;
- might achieve community benefit in your area (be specific);
- might be sustained in some way beyond the initial impact of this funding;
- relates to Religious Education/Collective Worship;
- how your SACRE would be involved;
- how the Award money would be allocated (in some detail).

Further Guidance

- Budgets may include buying in a consultant/leader with expertise
- Awards may add to other secured funding, but not as “leverage”
- Awards must not be used for projects already running independently
- Pupil engagement projects will be preferred to CPD initiatives
- While good resources are a valuable aid, projects aimed at producing resources will be evaluated according to what planning is included for deploying these resources effectively and widely afterwards
- Partnership projects between SACREs are permitted

Final advice

The Awards are intended to stimulate new approaches and initiatives. Projects should therefore not merely repeat what has been done already, nor reinvent the wheel. Each project should have something new or innovatory about it in some way.

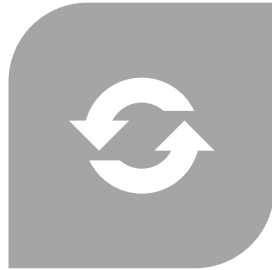
The Experience

- Application process is very simple – the form sets out everything you need
- The challenge is in identifying and defining the scope of the project.
 - **Title and brief description** – Be really clear about the overall scope of the project.
 - **Summary** – This is a longer and more complete overview, beginning to scope out the aims
 - **Background** – the context in which the project will be set
 - **What the project should achieve** – this will set out what will happen in more detail
 - Impact for pupils and if appropriate the wider community
 - **Budget** – as much detail as possible

The hard part... Making it work



DRAW UP AN
ACTION PLAN



AMEND AND
ADAPT



PRODUCE A
REPORT



COMPLETE THE
PROJECT

Any questions?



Please remember ...

- **This is a competitive award and not everyone can win...**
- **... but the better the application, the greater the chance!**

