

Applying for a Westhill/NASACRE Award

- supporting
- strengthening
- promoting

The 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

Westhill/NASACRE Awards History

- **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

Aims and theme: 2024-25

- <https://nasacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Westhill-Briefing-Notes-2024-25.pdf>
- NASACRE invites SACREs to submit applications for an Award for 2024-25 under the general theme of “education into diversity”. Proposals need not focus specifically and directly on promoting interfaith encounter and dialogue as such, although any such proposals will be welcomed.
- In selecting proposals for an Award, NASACRE’s main criterion will be to consider how far each proposed project will generate compelling learning experiences in Religious Education for young people relevant to today’s context. This could include appropriately-framed projects relating to Collective Worship.

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 (1)



Summer 2023: Trustees agree to release funds for 2024-25



Autumn 2023: NASACRE advertises the new round of Awards



March 2024: Deadline for applications



April 2024: Awards Panel meets to review applications



May 2024: Winners announced at NASACRE Annual Meeting

The Awards sequence (2)



The Westhill Foundation team liaise with successful projects



Contract agreed



Projects begin in Academic Year 2024-5



Funding released at agreed stages



Projects completed by end of Academic Year 2025

The Awards Panel (TBC)

Current members of the Panel are:

*Linda Rudge (Convenor), Mark James, Michael Metcalfe,
Anne Andrews, Naomi Anstice*

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.



The Process



Panel members
receive copies
of the
applications

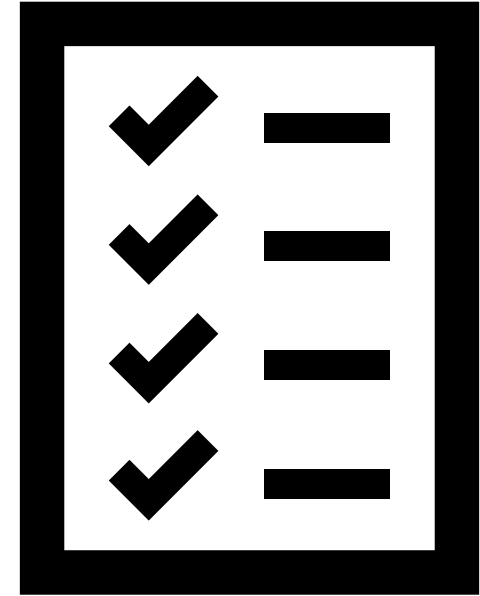
A preliminary
grading is given
to each
submission.

Each submission
is discussed and
reviewed.
Consensus is
reached as far as
possible.

Successful
projects
identified in
order, until all
the funding has
been allocated

Panel grading system

- **Grade A** - credible, valid and realistic project, well presented.
- **Grade C** - does not meet the awards programme objectives, or lacks quality, coherence or substance.
- **Grade B** - there may be areas of weakness or a lack of clarity – some SACREs are invited to make a resubmission (minor amendments) to be considered within the timeline



Next Steps



Convenor liaises with the Westhill representative Trustee to confirm the Panel's decisions.

Loose ends such as conditional awards are followed up

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 SACREs are contacted with an invitation to reapply next year – there is a short paragraph explaining why the project did not meet the criteria

Preparing a high quality application

Basic advice:

Read the Briefing Notes

Make sure the project fits the criteria and is realistic

Indicate clearly how the project will be led and delivered

Provide a credible, detailed budget

Look at examples of successful applications (attached 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 beyond the initial impact of this funding;
- relates to Religious Education and/or Collective Worship;
- how your SACRE would be involved;
- how the Award funds 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

Projects aimed at producing resources will need to show plans for effective deployment

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 innovative about it

The Experience

- The 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 possible the wider community
 - **Budget** – as much detail as possible

Let's hear from a successful SACRE

<https://www.penninelearning.com/videos/>

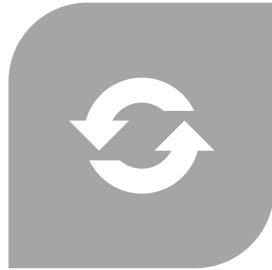
Leeds SACRE



The hard part... Making it work



DRAW UP AN
ACTION PLAN



AMEND AND
ADAPT

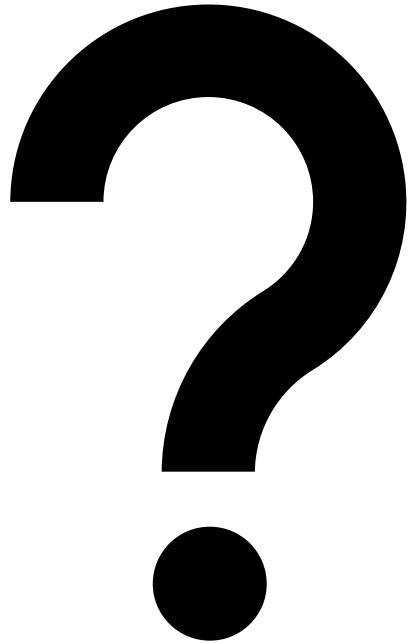


PRODUCE A
REPORT



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!**



2025 will be our 30th awards year!

- Watch out for updates on our website <https://nasacre.org.uk/westhill-nasacre-awards/>

