

Westhill / NASACRE Biennial Community, Unity and Diversity Awards 2027-29

Essential information

What is a Westhill / NASACRE Developing Diversity Award?

A Westhill / NASACRE Award offers up to £12,000 to cover or contribute to an innovative 2-year project within the domain of Religious Education or Collective Worship. It is awarded by NASACRE and Westhill jointly, using funds from the Westhill Endowment. Awards have been made since 2005 and have helped to produce some exciting innovations in RE over the years.

What is the purpose of the Awards?

The purpose of an Award is to enable a SACRE or a group of SACREs to develop and run an innovative project that it would not normally be able to finance. The idea is that the projects will foster collaboration between SACREs and local schools, strengthening the provision and impact of RE and Collective Worship. There may be connections created between schools and local communities as part of the project. The theme for the last round was Developing Diversity, but with a growing focus on cohesion, the theme for 2027-29 will be Community, Unity and Diversity. The awards encourage SACREs to think about how RE and Collective Worship are preparing pupils and students for life and work in multi-religious and multi-secular Britain.

Who can apply?

Applications are open to SACREs, working as individual SACREs or in groups. Other organisations can apply for different Westhill Awards, but not through NASACRE.

What types of project will attract funding?

With creative and innovative projects, criteria are not easily fixed, but there are some principles: Successful projects must:

- involve SACREs, SACRE members and local schools with their pupils.
- have clear and measurable outcomes.
- generate compelling learning experiences in Religious Education or Collective Worship for young people, relevant to today's context.

Judges will look particularly for projects:

- which have lasting impact and relevance.
- which have a wider impact - not necessarily national, but beyond those involved in the project.
- which go beyond the day-to-day functions of a SACRE and Local Authority.
- which are creative and innovative.
- which achieve specific community benefit in your area

YOUR APPLICATION must contain some description of your locality, the scope of the project and the methodology you propose to use giving clear reasons for the choices. You might want to use academic literature or research to support the process. You must show clearly how your project:

- promotes education on community, unity and diversity
- will have lasting impact and sustained educational relevance

- relates to Religious Education / Collective Worship

and how:

- your SACRE will be involved
- details about how the funding will be allocated if awarded.

SACREs are encouraged to seek extra/matched funding from other sources, but this is not a pre-condition of the grant. We should be pleased to consider bids from SACREs who propose to act jointly in an enterprise. If there are administrative costs associated with your project, these must be declared at the outset and written into the bid; such costs cannot be met from the Award later.

Are there any examples of previous winners?

Because the Awards have been running for such a long time, there are plenty of examples. Have a look at the [Westhill/NASACRE](#) website where you will find examples and reports from projects over the years. This may get you wondering how you can be innovative, given that so many ideas have already been tried, but if it's new in your area and will have impact, then it will be worth pursuing.

How do we apply?

Fill in the accompanying application form, ensuring you give a project outline and include a separate document with a more detailed overview of how the project will operate, with its anticipated outcomes and impact. The plan must show how the project will involve schools, SACREs and local communities. A detailed budget breakdown is also required. Please note that applications outside the timeframe for each round of Awards will not be considered, nor will incomplete applications. On occasions, the panel may seek clarification or further details, prior to making their decision.

When do we apply?

Application must be submitted by the end of February in the academic year before the project is due to begin, so for 2027-29, applications must be received by 5pm on Friday Feb 28th, 2027. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. The project start date is September/October 2027, when the first tranche of funding is released.

When and how will we find out if we have been successful?

Winners will be announced at NASACRE's annual conference, usually held in May. Where possible, unsuccessful applicants will be informed by email to coincide with the conference.

What support is available for our project?

Each successful project is allocated a link person from the awarding panel. The level of support will depend on what is required. The link person will request a report mid-way through the project, and a final report at the end.

What happens to any resources we create?

Where appropriate and feasible, resources are shared, and the final report will be posted on the Westhill/NASACRE webpage.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The maximum amount awarded is £12,000 per project, whether this is awarded to a single SACRE or a group. The payment of an Award will normally be carried out in two main tranches, with a smaller final payment possibly held back until the project has fulfilled its commitments under the terms of the Award. Payment will proceed by a series of 'triggers' as set out below.

First tranche - payable on completion of:

- Letter of Arrangement, Website Contract, and Schedule signed and returned
- Name of Project thumbnail and description submitted to NASACRE and Westhill on the email addresses listed below.

Second tranche - payable on completion of:

- Interim report submitted to NASACRE, and presentation given at the NASACRE conference at the end of the first year of the award.

Final payment (if held back) - payable on completion of:

- Final report posted on website.

Payment of the Award will not be made to a SACRE until the money is needed, and in any case not before 1 October 2027.

SCHEDULE

Bids should be submitted on the accompanying application form (which may also be downloaded from the [NASACRE website](#)), and returned to The Awards Panel Convenor, NASACRE, westhill@nasacre.org.uk and diane@westhillendowment.org to arrive **not later than 5pm on 28 February 2027**. As a safeguard against the application form being accidentally deleted or lost, a duplicate should be sent also to the Westhill Endowment office, as indicated on the form. As a further safeguard, the receipt of each application will be formally acknowledged. Should such an acknowledgement fail to arrive, the Awards Panel Convenor should be contacted urgently.

NASACRE's Awards Panel will give every bid careful consideration and will aim to be in touch with successful SACREs immediately after their names are announced at the 2027 NASACRE Conference.

SACRE Newsletters and our website will have coverage of the Awards and projects, and we will keep in touch with projects as they proceed. The [NASACRE](#) and [Westhill](#) websites contain information and reports from previous projects which could be helpful for SACREs preparing their own application for an Award.

NASACRE continues to be deeply grateful to the trustees of the Westhill Endowment, whose generosity has made the Awards Programme possible.