



## **The WESTHILL/NASACRE Awards 2013/14**

### **BRIEFING NOTES**

The first Westhill/NASACRE Awards were made in 2005. Since then there have been further annual rounds of Awards to SACREs, for local projects that involve schools. The Awards are funded by generous grants from the Westhill Foundation and are managed and coordinated by NASACRE.

Young people are growing up and receiving their education in a plural and diverse context that embraces both a wide range of religious traditions and communities and also covers a spectrum of stances of belief and non-belief. Young people therefore need to develop skills that will enable them to live constructively in and with this diversity: skills of listening to each other without prejudice, of discovering the common ground, of accepting the differences, of building confidence in their own identities.

They need to be able to encounter and talk with those who have beliefs and views different from their own, to break down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and to challenge the resulting stereotypes which emerge in popular culture. Personal development of this kind is an essential tool in promoting a healthy, cohesive and harmonious society and in enabling individuals to flourish in a context of rich but challenging diversity.

### **NASACRE'S ROLE**

NASACRE wishes to see SACREs take the initiative in encouraging the schools within their remit to engage with diversity in ways which are appropriate to them. To this end, NASACRE is offering grants of up to £4,000 to support suitable projects submitted by SACREs. In this way we aim to develop creative engagement among young people and to build up a bank of ideas and good practice for others to use in their own ventures, to the benefit of their locality and society more generally.

Over the years the response to the Awards programme has been gratifyingly enthusiastic and fruitful. Many imaginative and stimulating proposals have been submitted for an Award. SACREs may find it helpful to look at the attached summary of earlier successful bids, and to read some of the final project reports posted on the NASACRE website [www.nasacre.org](http://www.nasacre.org) .

NASACRE now invites SACREs to submit applications for an Award for 2013/14 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**.

### **WHAT YOUR SACRE SHOULD DO**

If you wish your SACRE's project to be considered for an Award, please complete the attached application form with full details of the proposed project. A project may take one of any number of forms involving young people, for example: conferences, the performing arts, media projects, exhibitions, local research, student exchange visits – or other ways to engage pupils and set something going which has the potential to develop into long-term engagement. Applications for an Award may include provision for fees to buy in a Project Manager, should the necessary leadership be unavailable within existing staff resources. Projects should be timed to begin after the start of the new academic year 2013/14.

While NASACRE particularly wishes to encourage applications from SACREs which have not previously received an Award, SACREs already being in receipt of an Award can be assured that a further application will be favourably dealt with, provided that the proposed new project is entirely separate from the previous Award-winning project, or is a major new initiative in its own right.

NASACRE is particularly keen to encourage SACREs to develop collaborative relations with academies and free schools in their area, and regards the Awards as an opportunity to progress this aim. NASACRE will accordingly look favourably on projects which are devised to include such schools. Many schools are now in new Federation groupings, which might have the resources to coordinate a project under the aegis of the SACRE.

NASACRE will receive copies of any resulting materials, reports and other outcomes of the successful projects, so that it can disseminate good practice across other SACREs, and continue to encourage effective education into diversity among young people.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The maximum amount of Award is £4,000 per SACRE. Payment of the Award will not be made to a SACRE until the money is needed, and in any case not before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. SACREs should not request payment in the form of a single lump sum unless this is essential for the smooth running of the project; SACREs should normally expect to receive the Award in two equal tranches. Successful SACREs should include in their final report a summary account of the income and expenditure relating to the project, indicating in particular how the Award money has been used.

## IMPORTANT ADVICE

**WHEN BIDDING**, please 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;

and how:

- your SACRE would be involved;
- NASACRE's money would be allocated (in some detail).

Some description of your locality would be helpful, and an indication of why you have chosen the method you propose.

SACREs are encouraged to seek extra/matched funding from other sources, but this is not a pre-condition of NASACRE's grant. We should also be pleased to consider bids from SACREs who propose to act jointly in an enterprise.

If there will be administrative costs associated with your project, these must be declared at the outset and written into the bid. Any such costs can not be met from the Award at a later date.

## SCHEDULE

Bids should be submitted on the application form herewith (which may also be downloaded from NASACRE's website), and returned electronically to The Awards Panel Convenor, NASACRE, to arrive **not later than 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013**. For extra security, please alert us by **emailing a brief message** to [prebmetcalf@hotmail.com](mailto:prebmetcalf@hotmail.com) to say that your application is being submitted.

NASACRE's panel of judges will give every bid careful consideration and will aim to be in touch with successful SACREs immediately after their names have been announced at NASACRE's AGM on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013.

*SACRE News* and our website will have coverage of the awards and projects and we will keep in touch with these projects as they proceed. The website also contains information and reports from previous projects; these could be helpful for SACREs preparing their own application for an Award.

## SINCERE THANKS

NASACRE continues to be deeply grateful to the Trustees of the Westhill Endowment, whose generosity has made this whole initiative possible.