



To: SACRE Chairs

Dear SACRE Chair,

YOUNG INTER-FAITH PROJECTS
The NASACRE/WESTHILL AWARDS 2008/9

Following on three successful years of NASACRE/Westhill Awards to SACREs for young Inter-Faith projects in 2005/6, 2006/7 and 2007/8, I am pleased to advise you that the Westhill Foundation Trustees have allocated a sum of money for further awards to SACREs of up to £5,000 for comparable projects during the academic year 2008/9. Details of the previously successful awards are given in the attached papers, for your information and interest.

Applications are now invited for this next round of awards. Please read the attached briefing notes, and submit your SACRE's application to The Lodge, Westhill, Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6LL on the form enclosed, clearly marking the envelope 'Young People's Faith Forum Project'. Applications should be received by March 31st 2008. We will aim to announce the names of the successful SACREs at our AGM on May 8th 2008

Yours sincerely,

Michael R. Peters

pp. Denise Chaplin
Chair NASACRE



YOUNG INTER-FAITH PROJECTS

BRIEFING NOTES

THE NEED

The need for good inter-faith dialogue is self-evident. The need for it to begin with young people is also self-evident. They need to be able to encounter and talk to those who have beliefs and views different from their own, to break down barriers constructed through ignorance and fear of the unknown, and challenge the resulting stereotypes which emerge in popular culture. This is an essential learning tool in the development of a respectful and tolerant society.

The Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum set an excellent example of how young people can come together to discuss matters of faith and belief, listening to each other without prejudice and discovering the common ground and accepting the differences. This can apply within a faith as well as across the boundaries of the faiths. The young people on that occasion also expressed the opinion that such discussion should not be confined to those already within a faith, but extended so that belief and unbelief may talk together, and the spiritual search be respected.

WHAT NASACRE IS DOING

NASACRE is encouraging SACREs, themselves bodies that include an inter-faith dimension, to take an initiative in encouraging the schools within their remit to engage in dialogue in ways which are appropriate to them. To this end, NASACRE is offering grants of up to £5,000 to support such work by the SACREs. In this way we hope to develop inter-faith dialogue 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.

The enthusiastic response to the first awards in 2005 demonstrated how important SACREs consider this opportunity and the extent to which the idea has caught the imagination. In the first year, NASACRE received bids from many SACREs across the country, and gave five awards. In the second year, the number of bids increased, and their quality was encouragingly high; a further five awards were made. To date, a total of seventeen awards have been made. SACREs may find it interesting and helpful to look at the attached summary showing the successful bids.

WHAT YOUR SACRE SHOULD DO

If you wish to take part, then apply for funds from NASACRE 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, exhibitions, student exchange visits – or other ways to engage pupils and set something going which has the potential to develop into long-term dialogue. Might co-operation with Colleges or the Youth Service be productive? Areas where some faith communities are sparsely represented may wish to develop a twinning project with another area possibly by e-mail.

The award is designed to include provision for a consultant to advise on the project and assist in its write-up and evaluation. You may suggest someone with whom you already have a connection, to work with you on a consultancy basis; or ask for someone to be suggested by NASACRE. The successful projects will be published by NASACRE, in order to disseminate good practice across other SACREs, and encourage effective inter-faith dialogue between young people elsewhere.

IMPORTANT ADVICE

WHEN BIDDING, please show **clearly** how your project:

- promotes dialogue between young people of differing faith positions;
 - 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.

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.

SCHEDULE

Bids should be submitted on the application form attached herewith (which may also be downloaded from NASACRE's website), and returned to The Lodge, Westhill, to arrive **not later than 31st March 2008**.

For extra security, please also alert us, if and when you are sending in an application, by **emailing a brief message** that the application is in the post, to j.walmsley@btconnect.com, dlwebb@btconnect.com, and to prebmetcalf@hotmail.com.

NASACRE's panel of judges will give every bid careful consideration and will aim to be in touch with successful SACREs by the end of April.

SACRE News will have coverage of the awards and projects and will keep in touch with these projects as they proceed. NASACRE hopes in due course to produce its own publication, inspired by the whole exercise.

SINCERE THANKS

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

SO PLEASE, give this invitation and the briefing notes your proper attention. It is an important field of work, and a source of real hope in our society.



National Association of SACREs

NASACRE/WESTHILL Awards 2008/9

Application Form

Name of SACRE:

SACRE Chair:

SACRE Clerk/Administrator & Contact Details

Project Manager/Co-ordinator & Contact Details

Email contact

Date of commencement of project _____

Estimated date of completion of project _____

Amount of Award applied for _____

Bank Account details (payee, etc) _____

Title and brief description of project.

(Please attach a fuller account on another page, as per the briefing notes.)

I hereby apply for a SACRE Award for 2008/9, as set out above.

I agree to keep NASACRE informed of the progress of the project, and in particular to furnish NASACRE with at least one written interim report, and a final written evaluation report for the whole project.

If the project produces significant teaching aids or other materials, I agree to make these available to NASACRE and other SACREs, subject to suitable arrangements being made to take into account any costs and copyright issues.

Signed:.....Date:.....

SACRE Chair.....