



To: SACRE Chairs

cc: SACRE Clerk/Administrator

Dear SACRE Chair,

YOUNG INTER-FAITH PROJECTS
The NASACRE/WESTHILL AWARDS 2011/12

Following on six successful years of NASACRE/Westhill Awards to SACREs for young Inter-Faith projects from 2005 onwards, 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 2011/12. Details of 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 on the form provided, either electronically or by surface mail. Applications must be received by March 31st 2011. (*This closing date is particularly inflexible this year, because of staff holiday leave at our Lewisham admin base please also alert us immediately afterwards.*) We will aim to announce the names of the successful SACREs at our AGM on May 11th 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Moore
Chair



The WESTHILL/NASACRE Awards 2011/12

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first Westhill/NASACRE Awards were made in 2005. Since then there have been further annual rounds of Awards to SACREs, for sums up to £5,000 for local projects that involve schools. The Awards are funded by generous grants from the Westhill Foundation and are managed and coordinated by NASACRE.

The original focus and motivating theme for the Awards was the promoting of inter-faith encounter and engagement among young people. The Golden Jubilee Young People's Faith Forum in 2003 offered an excellent example of how young people could come together to discuss matters of faith and belief.

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. This is an essential learning tool in the development of a healthy, cohesive and harmonious society.

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 with diversity 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 such 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.

The enthusiastic response to the first awards in 2005 demonstrated how important SACREs considered this opportunity and the extent to which the idea had caught the imagination. In subsequent years the level of interest has been sustained and even enhanced, and many creative proposals have been submitted for an Award. SACREs may find it stimulating and helpful to look at the attached summary of the successful bids so far, and to read the projects' reports posted on the NASACRE website www.nasacre.org .

Under the general theme of **"education into diversity"** NASACRE now seeks to widen the remit for the Awards so that new proposals need not focus specifically and directly on promoting interfaith encounter and dialogue as such, although any such proposals will continue to 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 to take part, then apply for funding from NASACRE on 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, exhibitions, student exchange visits – or other ways to engage pupils and set something going which has the potential to develop into long-term engagement. Might co-operation with Colleges or the Youth Service or community networks 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 education into diversity among young people.

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.

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.

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 or by surface mail to NASACRE at the South London Multifaith Resources Centre, Lewisham, to arrive **not later than 31st March 2011**. For extra security, please also alert us if and when you are sending in an application, please also alert us by **emailing a brief message** to 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.

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



National Association of SACREs

WESTHILL/NASACRE Awards 2011/12
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 2011/12, 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 (by SACRE Chair)

Date:.....

NB The Chair's signature may be scanned in electronically if such a facility exists within the Local Authority. Failing this, the application may be submitted electronically anyway, provided a hard copy of this form with signature is posted by surface mail to the Lewisham Centre as well.

To be submitted by 31st March 2011 to:

**NASACRE
Multi Faith and Multi Cultural Centre
Lewisham Professional Development Centre
Kilmorie Road
Forest Hill
London SE23 2SP**

Email: admin@nasacre.org.uk

