

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

DATE: NOVEMBER 9 2016

SUBJECT INCLUSIVE SACREs AWARD

Dear Chair of SACRE,

Get recognition for your SACRE's work in national Award

I am writing to you as Chair of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education to urge that it consider applying for the [2017 Accord Inclusivity Award](#), which is seeking to reward those SACREs that work hardest in their area towards boosting the growth of inclusion, cohesion and mutual understanding between those of different religions and beliefs. If your SACRE takes these aims seriously then please don't miss out on this rare opportunity for it to be recognised for its work. Until now the Award - which has run every year, the first placed school in 2013, Little Heath School in Redbridge, won [strong praise](#) from judges for its approach to RE which was later [highlighted](#) by Ofsted as an example for other special schools to follow. Newbury Park Primary School in Ilford came first [in 2014](#) for its 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief' scheme that was year since 2010 - has rewarded schools in England and Wales that excel on these grounds. For the 2017 Award however judges have decided to only invite nominations for SACREs, given the important role SACREs can play through their work in promoting respect, empathy and social cohesion.

Religious Education has always been of key importance for Inclusivity Award judges, who have consistently rewarded schools for excellence in the subject (and often thanks to recommendations from SACREs). For examples supported by its SACRE and which served to help improve pupils understanding of the nature of faith and belief as a real life experience. The winning school in the 2016 Award, the Chestnut Grove Academy in Balham, [stood out](#) for the way in which its RE deepened and extended pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion and belief while simultaneously dealing with a range of controversial issues, such as around sexual diversity, homophobia and gender. But this coming year presents a chance for SACREs themselves to shine.

The Award is free to apply for. The full line up of another respected and experienced panel of experts will soon be announced. Previous judges have included former Secretary of State for Education, Lord Baker; the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Neil Carmichael MP; the then Chair of the Religious Education Council of England, John Keast OBE; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson, and journalist Polly Toynbee.

RE is subject to many demands and pressures. If your SACRE works hard at trying to ensure local schools provide inclusive and high quality RE and assemblies that take seriously the promotion of the growth of mutual understanding between those of different beliefs

and backgrounds, then please make sure someone is mandated to submit a [completed nomination](#) on its behalf.

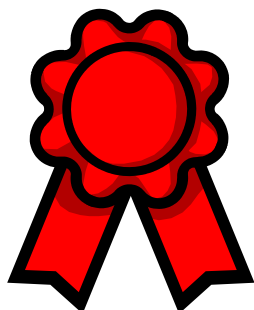
For more information on the Award please visit Accord's website at <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2017/>. The deadline for entries is Monday December 12th and prizes will be announced in the New Year. Please contact Accord's National Coordinator, Paul Pettinger, at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.

Every winner of the Inclusivity Award has received national press coverage for their success. Don't miss this chance to draw attention to you and your colleagues' efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE
Chair of the Accord Coalition for Inclusive Education

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believing in children, learning together

Inclusive SACREs Award nomination form

1. Contact details:

SACRE name:	
Name and position of main contact for the Award:	
Main contact's telephone number and email address:	
Name and email of SACRE Chair (if different from above):	
Name and contact email of RE advisors, clerks or local authority staff/ officers that currently actively support the SACRE:	

2. SACRE details:

Please provide the information listed below by either including a relevant hyperlink or indicating that the document is to be attached by email with this completed form.¹

Copy of the current syllabus, and any accompanying guidance:	
Copy of the SACRE constitution, along with any standing orders:	
Link to SACRE website (if exists):	
Link to last annual report:	

¹ If only a paper copy can be submitted, please post it to the Accord Coalition at Unit A, 39 Moreland Street, London, EC1V 8BB.

Please list the current membership of your committees A, B, C and D, or any members who are co-opted or attend regularly as an observer, and indicate for which party, tradition or interest group(s) they each represent. Feel free to also indicate any known vacancies.

Committee A:

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Committee B:

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Committee C:

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Committee D:

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Co-opted:

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Observers:

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3. SACRE remit and resources: (no more than 250 words)

Please describe – in no more than 225 words – the characteristics of the area the SACRE covers and the number of schools that are currently required to adhere to its syllabus. This is also an opportunity to describe the access to subject expertise and the level of material support the SACRE receives, including from the local authority.

4. Implementation of being an inclusive SACRE: (no more than 850 words)

This is the most important section. The judges recognise there are many competing expectations and demands placed upon the subject. However they are especially interested in the way that the SACRE have sought to boost inclusion, community cohesion, mutual understanding and mutual respect between those of different religions and non-religious worldviews. Please provide specific examples of how these aims are met. It is also recommended to set out at least one innovative approach that has been particularly important or successful. Judges will be interested to find out how the Agreed Syllabus directly advances these aims, but other areas of the SACRE's work that could prove of interest include:

- building a relationship with local schools that are not required to follow the syllabus and forging partnerships with other agencies (such as local academy chains, multi-academy chains and faith school sponsors, or higher or further education providers)
- urging the local authority to ensure that the membership of the SACRE and Agreed Syllabus Conference is diverse and representative, including of the non-religious
- considering the views of pupils, or developing a Youth SACRE or RE Ambassador programme
- support and guidance to schools on making assemblies and/or provision for SMSC development more inclusive
- creative use of Collective Worship determinations
- the production or commissioning of extra resources for teachers, such as with lesson or curriculum planning (please also submit these in digital copy - they will be treated with confidence and only shared amongst the judging panel)
- organising training for Governors or helping tackle gaps training and Career Professional Development for teachers
- developing support and research networks
- celebrating successes by pupils and schools

- identifying an area of the SACRE's weakness and acting upon it
- targeted help to individual schools
- ideas and help for schools to advance their legal duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty² and requirement to promote British Values and community cohesion

The Award judges are also interested in the provision of high quality RE more generally, so please consider drawing upon examples that highlight how the SACRE has helped in achieving this. Examples might include:

- new ways of working to alleviate the impact of local authority funding restraints
- sharing ideas and concerns with central government
- ensuring continuity, coherence and sustained learning for pupils moving between primary and secondary phases,
- promoting provision for short course or full RS GCSE and A level

5: Evaluation and planning for the future: (no more than 200 words)

Where has the SACRE's work and implementation of its approach been most successful, and why? What lessons were learned? In what way was the SACRE's approach improved as a result? What are major barriers to further improvement, and how might they be overcome? Have any ideas and recommendations be made for the next Agreed Syllabus Conference?

² The Public Sector Equality Duty was created by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and came into force in 2011. It requires all public bodies and those carrying out public functions to have due regard when carrying out their activities to helping eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

Please return the completed nomination to paul@accordcoalition.org.uk

If you wish to submit further external or supplementary evidence for consideration by the judges, please consider including appropriate web links in this form. If you only have information as a hard copy then please consider scanning and uploading it online.