

Agenda Item 7

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE OF MEETING:	24th November 2015
SUBJECT:	Summary of the Accord Inclusive Schools Award with recommendations of which schools to nominate
REPORT BY:	Religious Education Adviser
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IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY: The report summarises the requirements for the award.

DISCUSSION: The award is linked to schools' provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. SACRE members receive an analysis of this aspect of Ofsted reports at every meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and any comments made as necessary.

APPENDICES – None

BACKGROUND PAPERS: The following background papers, as defined in the Local Government Act 1972, were relied upon in writing this report.

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusivity Award 2016

The scope of the awards

The Accord Coalition's 2016 Inclusivity Award is open to all schools in England and Wales. Information about Accord can be found on their website: www.accordcoalition.org.uk

Nominated schools will be rewarded for how they have gone about making that extra step within the particular setting that they find themselves in. Schools will not be disadvantaged for having to operate under a different legal framework from some other schools, or being located in a diverse or relatively mono-cultural area. The annual Accord Inclusivity Award was first run in 2010 and since winning institutions have included rural, suburban, inner city, faith and special schools. Participating in the Award has been highlighted by Ofsted as a way schools can complement their duties under the Equality Act to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and tackle discrimination.

How the Awards will be judged

The Award judges want to hear about and celebrate those schools that promote inclusion, cohesion, equality and the growth of mutual understanding as a core part of their ethos, and that nurture active citizens, who are confident in themselves, tolerant and respectful of others, and keen to make a difference in society. The judges are especially interested in the way that schools address issues of religion and philosophical belief, both inside the school and through any relationships with local, national and international communities. In addition, the judges are interested in knowing how the school's inclusive ethos guides its policies on ethnic, cultural and socio-economic differences, as well as those based on gender, age, disability and sexual orientation.

The key way schools will be evaluated is through a nomination form received on its behalf. The judges are not just interested in details about specific initiatives established to promote the growth of mutual understanding and improved community cohesion, but also about a broad range of activities (such as approaches in the curriculum, the admissions policy, the kind of assemblies provided, invited speakers, visits etc). In addition to individual projects and initiatives, judges would also like to see evidence of the school's strategic vision and ethos that underpin its work.

It has been suggested that Swineshead St Mary's PS is nominated for this award. WH has made contact and will follow this up.

Prizes will be awarded to the schools that have done the most to embody an ethos of inclusion, but some schools may also be commended for specific aspects of their work on inclusion, cohesion and equality. This is another reason why we ask schools highlight one policy or initiative that they feel has been especially successful or innovative.

The judges will also access recent Ofsted inspection reports (for schools in England) and look online at the school website for the most recent prospectus, admission requirements and other available school policies. Although Ofsted stopped inspecting how schools promote community cohesion in 2012, it continues to look at how schools develop their pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and how pupils contribute to the wider community.

The deadline for applications is December 13th.

For discussion

Should we be nominating any other schools? Given the deadline, we do not have the capacity to support all these but we could draw their attention to the award.

Schools that have received very positive comments about SMSC during the past year:

The Spalding Parish CE Day School
Church Lane PS Sleaford
Waddington All Saints
Gainsborough Academy
Boston High School
Fortuna (Special)
Phoenix (Special)
North Kesteven
Lady Jane Franklin (Special)

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