

Dear Heidi,

Help achieve national recognition for an inclusive school in your area

Do you know of a local school or schools that excel in promoting an inclusive ethos and which advance the growth of mutual understanding, especially on the grounds of religion and ethnicity? If so please recommend to them the 2020 Inclusivity Award, which rewards schools that work hardest to promote these aims.

I am writing to you in your capacity as a local authority support officer for the City of Nottingham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education because I know you and your SACRE have expertise about local schools that take religious inclusivity seriously. The annual Inclusivity Award is now in its eleventh year and former Award winners have displayed a wide range of high quality and thoughtful work, with most having excelled at RE, and with many having had the Award commended to them by their SACRE.

Could you or your SACRE commend the 2020 Inclusivity Award to any local schools that you think stand out and urge that they apply? The annual Award is listed by Ofsted as a way for schools to complement their duties under Public Sector Equality Duty (to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations and tackle discrimination). The Award is free to enter and open to all state funded schools in England and Wales.

The 2020 Award will be judged by another respected and experienced panel of experts from a range of backgrounds. Previous judges have included former Education Secretary, Lord Baker; the then Education Select Committee Chair, Neil Carmichael; former Institute of Education Director, Professor Becky Francis; the Bishop of Buckingham, The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson; and journalists Ian Dale and Polly Toynbee.

Due to the relatively detailed nature of the information required, a nomination form should be completed by someone at the school in question. This will normally take a couple of hours. Accord has tried to make the process of applying as simple as possible, and most of the questions the nomination form poses will have already been answered, if not seriously considered, in material already produced by the school for Ofsted, the school prospectus, newsletters or internal policy documents.

If you or your colleagues know of a local school that provides inclusive and high quality RE and takes seriously promoting mutual understanding between those of different beliefs and backgrounds please let them know that you think highly of their work and about the Award. Past winners have always received press coverage for their success and their success has usually reflected well on their local authority.

For more information on the Award please visit <http://accordcoalition.org.uk/inclusivity-award-2020/>. The deadline for entries is Sunday February 21st 2020 and prizes will be awarded in the Spring. Please contact Accord's National Coordinator, Paul Pettinger, at paul@accordcoalition.org.uk or on 020 7324 3071 with any queries.

Yours sincerely, Stephen.

The Revd Stephen Terry

Chair of the Accord Coalition, and the 2020 Inclusivity Award judging panel