

Swan Awards 2006

Any school in Buckinghamshire can apply for a Swan Award for a project they have undertaken relating to a specific topic. For example in 2004 the awards were given to schools that showed innovation in the curriculum or in the area of inclusion and diversity. The 2005 awards went to schools that could demonstrate excellence in working closely with the local community.

Members of this Committee judge the entries. They visit the schools that apply and evaluate the projects. For 2006, to reflect the importance of Every Child Matters, it is proposed that schools be invited to apply for an award if they feel that they are able to demonstrate innovation in supporting pupils' health as outlined in the "Be Healthy" component of ECM.

Schools would be expected to demonstrate a level of innovation beyond that which would be normal for a school. For example the criteria for success would require something over and above the "Healthy Schools" or "Walking to Schools" projects.

The proposed timetable for the process is as follows:

- October 21 – Application forms, criteria etc to be sent to schools (incl. 2005 summaries). Schools will be asked to provide five possible visit dates between mid-January and mid-March 2006 along with their entries
- December 20 – Closing date for entries
- Early January – Organisation of visits and assembling of information about schools
- Early January – A moderation panel comprising officers from School Improvement, the Chairman and OSC support officer will consider the entries. Strengths and weaknesses will be identified and supporting information will be passed to the members visiting the schools to help them identify issues to look out for
- Mid January to 17 March 2006 – School visits (two members to each school, visits open to all members, no member to visit a school at which they are a governor). Members to provide reports to the moderation panel
- 31 March – Moderation and initial decisions
- 26 April – Final decisions on Awards by OSC
- Early May – Schools notified of the decision
- 16 June – Presentation ceremony

In previous years there have been two levels of award, highly commended and full award. It is proposed that for 2006 this should be simplified by having just a full award. Members are requested to give their views on this.