

To: Head Teachers of all schools

To be sent out October 21 (check dates for bulletins)

Dear Colleague,

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SWAN AWARDS 2006 - INITIATIVE SHOWING INNOVATION IN PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The Swan Award celebrates the endeavours and achievements of schools as they seek to further develop the quality of education in Buckinghamshire. In 2006 it seeks to identify and promote innovation in supporting pupils' health in Buckinghamshire schools, as outlined in the "Be Healthy" outcome of "Every Child Matters." All innovation should show a significant effect on pupil achievement as shown either in value added measures or in other ways.

This aspect of Every Child Matters is concerned with supporting parents, carers and families to promote healthy choices. Detailed aims are listed below.

The 2006 Awards are for schools which have developed creative, imaginative initiatives that:

- **actively involve pupils, parents and external agencies**
- **support a number of the aims of this aspect of Every Child Matters.** These aims are: supporting children and young people's
 - physical health,
 - mental and emotional health,
 - sexual health,
 - healthy lifestyles, and
 - choosing not to take illegal drugs.
- **include a range of activities for any one aim, e.g.**
 - for physical health – a range of activities beyond the normal list of clubs
 - for mental and emotional health – a range within and beyond the curriculum. In the curriculum, there might be work on emotional literacy, thinking skills, use of circle time etc.
- **are well established, sustained and integrated with the work of the school**
- **will continue and develop further**

Examples:

Routes to school – a whole school approach which is much broader than agreeing walking routes to school, but ties into the curriculum in science, geography, maths, history and PE. The project was worked out with governors, parents, the police and other members of the local community.

Gardening project – pupils, supported by parents and other community members, grow produce and link this to work on diet and nutrition, and on physical exercise, fitness etc. This project ties into many aspects of the curriculum and will develop further with a different yeargroup next year.

Further details and an application form are attached. The Awards are open to all Buckinghamshire schools, including PRUs.

How to apply

As last year, the application form is intended as an indication of interest; it should not take long to complete. Following guidance from School Improvement Advisers, schools will show how they meet the criteria during a visit from Members. The questions which will form the basis of the discussion on the visit(s) will be sent to schools in advance.

Timescale

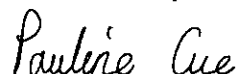
Closing date for submissions	December 20th 2005
Initial analysis of applications and organisation of visit programme	Early January 2006
Visits	Mid January to 17th March 2006
Awards	June 16th 2006

Last year's Awards

"Our Continuing Success Story", a leaflet giving information about the Leadership in the community school initiatives recognised through the 2005 Awards is enclosed.

Please contact me if you would like an electronic version of the forms or have any further questions.

Yours faithfully



Pauline Cue
County Adviser – Assessment
School Improvement Service