

Introduction for authorities new to the SLS-UK School Library Award

Please note that the term 'SLS' (denoting a Schools Library Service) is used for convenience but may imply 'Education Library Service' or any other name used to denote a traded service of bulk loans of books and other resources to schools within a local authority area.

Background

The SLS-UK School Library Award ("the Award"), formerly known as *Warwickshire SLS School Library Award*, has now been formally adopted by ASCEL.

The Award was initiated and developed by Warwickshire Schools Library Service in 2012 in response to a request from local secondary school librarians for some kind of straightforward accreditation scheme which would produce a certificate that could be displayed to show the library's standing in its own school and also within the library profession.

The scheme worked well locally and ASCEL SLS members agreed Warwickshire could offer the package to other authorities, for an administration fee, so that these could then offer it within their own authority. Following further review amongst those SLSs, particularly the potential for revalidation and widening of the scheme to more authorities, this is to be available across the UK.

The new Award and endorsing organisations

Warwickshire SLS manager, Stella Thebridge, has now willingly transferred ownership of the contents and process to ASCEL for use by any SLS in any UK library authority subject to the Terms and Conditions set out below (from September 2017).

ASCEL will manage the download of documentation by SLSs from its website. The Award is also endorsed by the School Library Association (SLA) and CILIP-School Libraries Group (SLG) whose logos will appear alongside ASCEL's logo on all documentation. The Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) is also pleased to endorse the aims of the Award.

The aim is to continue the goodwill which exists between SLSs traditionally, i.e. not to exploit other SLSs or to 'poach' where a SLS exists, for example. These conditions will also be imposed by ASCEL, and the right to grant the Award may be withdrawn in any case of non-compliance.

Any SLS wishing to offer the award must apply on the form on ASCEL website (www.ascel.org.uk), as outlined there, confirming acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

Aims of the SLS-UK School Library Award

- To accredit school libraries through a straightforward and cost-effective self-assessment process that is robust and equitable across the UK
- To recognise the work of library staff especially in designated library posts
- To highlight the work of school libraries and their staff in raising the educational achievement of children and young people
- To raise awareness of good school library provision in school communities and the profession locally and nationally.

Any queries about the award should be addressed in the first instance to Nina Simon

Nina.Simon@visionrcl.org.uk or *Stella Thebridge* **stellathebridge@warwickshire.gov.uk**



Terms and conditions

1. SLSs no longer need to purchase the Award in order to administer it. However, the SLS concerned must be a member of ASCEL in its own right. Warwickshire Schools Library Service has waived its right to further income from purchase by other authorities. SLSs using the new SLS-UK School Library Award do so for use with schools in their own authority only, or with schools from neighbouring authorities where there is no SLS or equivalent.
2. Only documents downloaded from the ASCEL website by agreement may be used in the award process, without alteration, except to add local details where indicated (usually the name of the SLS granting the award). SLSs may not forward these documents to other SLSs. Each must apply separately – thanks
3. SLSs may only offer the Award to schools (as in 1 above) for the same fee as offered by all, and agreed nationally by ASCEL national Committee. Fees currently are at one of three levels:
 - a) £40 for schools subscribing to the awarding SLS
 - b) £50 for non-subscribers who are, however, members of the SLA*
 - c) £60 for non-subscribers to either SLS or SLA.

*This rate might also be applied by SLSs locally, at their discretion, to schools where the librarian is a personal member of CILIP-SLG.

4. ASCEL reserves the right to increase the Award fees but will consult and give due notice.
5. No SLS or its authority may sell on the package or pass it by any means to any other body or individual except to purchasing schools – only SLSs may administer it and download it directly from ASCEL. Schools may only use the documents for their own application. SLSs are encouraged to pdf certain documents once edited before sending to individual schools. The blank self-assessment form for schools to complete should, of course, always be left as a Word document.
6. SLSs may only change content where marked, i.e. to indicate own authority / SLS name and any relevant logo of their own authority. Such points are clearly highlighted on editable documents.
7. Each SLS must keep records of all schools:
 - a) registering interest
 - b) applying (and fee paid)
 - c) completing - noting whether the school has achieved the Main or Gold Award.
8. Each SLS must respond to any requests from ASCEL for details of awards applied for and given out as in 7. above.
9. Any suggested change to content should be notified to ASCEL national committee in the first instance whose members will consult and decide whether it is workable and a change we should all implement.
10. ASCEL will administer the Award and review it annually. Any changes will be made by the national committee, led by the SLS-UK representative at the time. Changes will also be ratified by the School Library Association (SLA) and CILIP-School Libraries Group (SLG) in consultation with SCL.

Updated September 2017

