

Award Overview

The Faith In Action Award has been created to facilitate an exploration of scripture and Church teaching, with an emphasis on translating this into action. The programme rewards active service in schools and parishes, encouraging participants to take their service into the wider community and accept greater responsibility for their faith in action. It encourages them to shine the light of faith upon their experience, reflecting upon how this shapes and moulds them as young people.

The programme follows the principles of Theological Pastoral Reflection and is designed to be flexible, allowing schools and parishes to deliver it in a way that best suits the needs of their individual participants.

Just as 'The Good News' is for the whole human family, it is entirely appropriate that this scheme and its benefits are open to people of all Christian denominations who interact with the life of the Catholic Church either by attending a Catholic School or Parish community.

Although desirable, baptism in any tradition is not a deciding factor for eligibility – though some expression of faith and a personal interest in exploring what it means to be part of a faith community on behalf of the participant will be needed to give a heartbeat to participation in the scheme.

Whilst the award scheme is not intended to be a test, it is important that the scheme at every level should be appropriately challenging of all participants without ever failing to encourage. The challenging aspect should be presented as a call into exploration, relationship and a response to the 'big questions' of life. This balance, which should be a key priority for catechists and leaders, gives the scheme its credibility and integrity.

There are four different levels of award: Pin, Bronze, Silver and Gold – with the Pin level intended as the entry point, aimed firmly at upper primary (Y6)/lower secondary and more flexibly designed Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in recognition of meeting higher levels of challenge.

By design the scheme is progressive in nature, i.e., an individual may achieve the bronze award in one year and work towards the silver award the following year. However, it is possible for a participant to achieve a gold award without having achieved any other award, provided they meet the requirements both

of age and of the scheme outline. This means participants will be able to access the programme even if they have not participated in previous years.

It is envisaged that schools and parishes will use the material incrementally with groups based on local demographics. That is to say, even though a participant may wish to aim for the gold award, the local school or parish may encourage them to aim for the silver in a given year so that they may then have something to work towards in the years ahead.

The award is designed to run on an annual cycle with all diocesan participants, schools and parishes, working towards a single diocesan celebration and presentation evening at which the Diocesan Bishop will present the awards.