



School Librarian of the Year Award 2020

Guidelines for Nominations

Important note: The successful School Librarian of the Year and Honour List candidates will have the opportunity to undertake various opportunities on behalf of the SLA to further raise the profile of school librarians. These may include any or all of the following: speaking at our annual conference, working with partners to provide book reviews, taking part in book selection panels, representing the SLA at award ceremonies and various other opportunities which may arise. These will obviously be agreed at mutually convenient times for the school and the individual but the school should be prepared to allow their nominee out for no more than one day per half term i.e. up to six days over the year.

Nominations are open to school library staff (i.e. anyone who has responsibility for the school library – this may be a TA or other member of staff in primary schools) in the UK and Ireland. Librarians who have previously made the Honour List may not re-apply, as we want to showcase new candidates.

All nominations are initially presented to the judging panel with all identities removed. It is therefore really important, to enable your nomination to have the best chance of proceeding, that you follow instructions fully. In particular:

- Please back up statements fully. Saying you have the best librarian in the world is not enough. Please give us evidence of a positive impact on teaching and learning to support that statement.
- Please provide evidence of reading promotion AND information literacy work, where appropriate. We will be looking for both from secondary school librarians.
- We will be looking for evidence that work is ongoing throughout the school, rather than in isolation within the library.
- Please only provide what you are asked to provide at this point. If your nominee is longlisted there will be an opportunity to send supporting evidence.
- Please put all information, personal comments and reflection on the form. We have to judge all nominations on the same criteria and if you send additional material you may have to be excluded. We will contact schools when we want further information.

Finally, if you are unsuccessful do not be put off. We have many nominations and competition is extremely strong. We respond to all unsuccessful nominations and, where possible, will explain why your nomination was not successful. If you are encouraged to apply again it is because you were very close to meeting the criteria and we will give feedback about the points to work on.

Guidelines for Job Share applicants

There is no reason why someone in a job share partnership should not be nominated for the award of School Librarian of the Year; however there may be reasons why the partnership should wish to jointly apply.

In this case we would expect:

- Each partner to be on equal standing, with equal status within the school
- The job to be shared, not split, so that each contributes the same value to the end product
- Neither partner would be seen to be the senior, for example one would not appraise the other.

We would then treat the two as one, with one visit, one set of additional material if required and the title would be jointly held should they win.

The nominations we receive are many and varied.
We want to know what makes your librarian special!

Deadline for submission of nominations: 31st October 2019

School Library Association
1 Pine Court Kembrey Park Swindon SN2 8AD
Tel: 01793 530166 Fax: 01793 481182
Email: slya@sla.org.uk Web: www.sla.org.uk

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