

The International Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award

accredited by the Institute for Habits of Mind
& Tomorrow's Learning



An International Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence is a place where everyone strives to deepen their understanding of Habits of Mind and integrate them into their teaching and learning.

Evidence of Habits of Mind may be found in classroom instruction, curriculum design and throughout the school's physical environment and culture. Parents, teachers and students will use the language of Habits of Mind and have a long-term commitment to deepening and sustaining them.

The Award is given for commitment to the ongoing development of Habits of Mind. Circumstances differ, so the award is not a 'one size fits all' pass or fail but recognition of a school's commitment to a learning journey shaped by Habits of Mind.

Who should apply?

The Award is for schools that have started their Habits of Mind journey and want to go further. The Award recognises a school's desire to broaden its understanding of Habits of Mind. These schools will be embedding Habits of Mind across school policies and practices and activating Habits of Mind among everyone involved in the school. Additionally, the Award is designed for schools seeking international recognition of their work with Habits of Mind and that want to share with and learn from the growing global community developing Habits of Mind.

What is the process?

To be considered for the Award, schools must demonstrate how Habits of Mind are currently embedded into school practices. After approaching the Institute for Habits of Mind (IHOM), the school will be asked to complete a self-evaluation exercise and submit a portfolio of evidence reflecting its history and current achievement with Habits of Mind. An Associate Director of IHOM will also make a site visit to the school.

If the school meets IHOM's requirements it may be granted the Award immediately, thus becoming a fully IHOM accredited school. Alternatively, further training needs may be identified and a training plan put in place with a timeframe agreed upon by the school and the Institute. At the end of the agreed time the school will be re-assessed and either accredited immediately or undertake another agreed period of training.

Once the school is accredited it will begin developing a three-year plan to further embed and enrich the Habits, in preparation for re-accreditation at the end of the three-year period.

What does it cost?

A fee of £350 is payable when a school first applies for the Award. Accreditation will be awarded on successful demonstration of significant achievement and commitment to Habits of Mind and a plan for further development covering three years. At this point a further fee of £700 is payable. The award is for three years' duration.

What are the benefits to the school?

The Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence Award is a mark of good practice. Benefits to the school include:

- Ongoing support and mentoring from IHOM
- Improved learning and teaching practices from working successfully with Habits of Mind
- Permission to display the IHOM logo, designating the school as a Habits of Mind Learning Community of Excellence
- Recognition by IHOM and listing on the IHOM website
- Connection to other schools engaged in the IHOM Learning Community Excellence Award process
- Invitation to learning opportunities supporting the school's growth.

What expectations are placed on schools?

The Award is presented only after a school satisfies IHOM it is committed to the Institute's requirements. The school must undertake whole-school training and be embedding Habits of Mind throughout policies, practices and pedagogy school-wide. It must be able to share its learning journey with the Institute and other schools.

To enquire about your school becoming a Habits of Mind International Learning Community of Excellence, contact:

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