

## **Inclusion Chartermark 2007**

The development of the Inclusion Chartermark followed the review of inclusion carried out by the Local Authority at the beginning of the decade and was set out in 'Inclusive Cumbria 2003'.

During 2005-2006 a pilot project was run and ten schools were invited to present submissions. Seven Schools were successful and were presented with Awards last July.

The framework for the awards was set out in the document, 'Inclusion/SEN Review and Inclusion Chartermark Guidance – September 2005' which was sent to all schools via the green bag in January 2006. Further advice relating to how schools should apply for the Award, following the experiences of the pilot, was issued via the portal in October 2006. All schools were invited to submit an application by February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007.

The Inclusion Chartermark has a three year lifespan and is awarded at three levels:

- Level 1 – the Developing Stage.
- Level 2 – the Establishing Stage
- Level 3 – the Enhancing Stage

Schools need to develop a focus group approach to the process of assessing how they are responding to the demands of 'inclusion'. Although pupils with disabilities and social inclusion figure highly, as those most difficult to accommodate in our schools, the emphasis should be placed on the concept of meeting all pupils aspirations, needs and desires as members of the community at large.

**Andy Fasolino**  
**February 2007**