

2022

# A-Z Funding for Schools

A Comprehensive Guide to Grants Available to UK Schools



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## Introduction

### Background

Grants 4 Schools has been providing UK schools with information on grants and funding opportunities since 2006. In recent years, prolonged pressure on the public purse and an expectation that schools should make efficiency savings means that schools are expected to do more with fewer resources. In seeking to make up some of the resource deficit, schools are increasingly looking towards external, non-government funding to replace worn out equipment, maintain existing activities and develop new initiatives. Therefore, and in response to the ever-tightening financial environment within which schools operate, we've written this Guide to show you how your school can access and benefit from a broader range of funding opportunities.

Traditional fundraising techniques such as annual events, fetes, raffles and auctions will continue to play an important role in raising funds for schools. Increasingly, however, schools are becoming more aware of the potential of grant funding as a source of much needed support. Better-known sources of funding such as the National Lottery, various UK Government Departments and the devolved Scottish and Welsh Governments are now being joined by a significant number of smaller Grant Making Trusts and Foundations as potential sources of income.

***Although exact figures are hard to come by, it is estimated that the total level of discretionary funding available to schools through these sources is in excess of £1 billion per year.***

This Guide offers a comprehensive listing of the funding sources available to support a range of projects and initiatives within UK schools. The funding opportunities featured cover grants that offer a broad range of support from capital items such as equipment and buildings to revenue costs relating to running curriculum, subject based or out of school activities. In some instances, funding is also available for projects that link your school with its local community or to support partnership working with other schools, colleges, universities or businesses.

### Who will benefit from this guide?

This Guide has been written for anyone who currently finds themselves responsible for or involved in fundraising for schools. This includes:

- Headteachers
- School/Academy Business Mangers
- Finance Managers
- Sports Teachers
- PTA or 'Friends of' members

The Guide also serves as an additional resource for local authority education staff and managers within Multi-Academy Trusts who may have responsibility for advising individual schools on raising funds from external sources.

## ***How to use the Guide***

The aim of the Guide is to raise awareness of the grants available to support schools in several ways. The funding organisations featured in the Guide can, for example, assist with the development of curriculum areas, provide additional support to specific groups of students, (for example those with special educational needs), enhance professional development, facilitate outreach into the local community and assist with premises improvements and equipment purchase. In many cases, specific examples of schools that have successfully drawn down funding from particular organisations are given to illustrate the type of projects supported.

***Chapter 1*** contains an alphabetical listing of the grants (or funding sources) available together with basic information about the funder and the grants on offer.

Having read the summary, you will know if your project or activity fits the bill, and you can follow the links to check out the funder for yourself.

We know that putting together an application can be a daunting exercise especially if you haven't done it before or have had applications turned down in the past. So, we've included further information and guidelines to give you some pointers:

***Chapter 2 How to Write a Winning Application*** contains a best practice guide to help you to compile your application. The Chapter features sections on:

- ✓ Establishing the credibility of your organisation
- ✓ Understanding the grant maker's funding criteria
- ✓ Establishing the need for your project
- ✓ Clearly communicating your case for funding
- ✓ Developing an effective exit strategy
- ✓ Key documents required
- ✓ Working with the funder
- ✓ Match Funding

We've also included some ***"Top Tips"*** to give you some ideas and extra help – things we've learned from a combined 30 years in fundraising.

***Chapter 3 - Crowdfunding*** introduces you to a relatively new method of generating income. In this chapter, we explain what Crowdfunding is and show how you can make it work for your school project.

## Chapter 1: List of Funding Schemes

### Chapter One: Section One:

The first point of information is the Table of Contents.

The Table lists over 300 grant makers or funding streams alphabetically and, in the second column, gives an indication of the types of projects supported by category. The categories used are the same ones that we use on our [subscription database](#) to help you to search for appropriate funders for your type of project. The categories are further broken down into sub-categories as illustrated below.

**For subscribers only**, the [Case Studies](#) page on our website offers examples of schools that have successfully drawn down grants for projects falling into each category:

The **second point of information** is the **individual entry for each funding opportunity**.

Listed alphabetically, and linked to the corresponding entry in the Table of Contents, each entry provides the following information:

- ✓ The **Title Line** shows the name of the funder, grant title (if different and where relevant) and the geographic area that you need to be within to apply
- ✓ A **Description** of the offer includes the type of organisations the funder supports, the areas of work supported and any application deadlines that may apply.
- ✓ The **Grant Level and Eligible Costs** section indicates usual grant levels and the project costs that may be covered by the award.
- ✓ Where available, **Examples** of schools (or projects) previously funded or a link to the funders own list is included.
- ✓ The funders **Website** address is your 'go to' point for further information about the organisation, the offer and how to apply.
- ✓ **Additional Information** links are provided where the funder has provided further pointers for you to follow to help you in preparing your application.

With each entry, we've given you a head start in finding funders offering grants for the type of project you are developing.

**Note:** As we prepared this Guide in September 2021, we learned some grant programmes remain paused to enable funders to offer ongoing support to organisations needing help to recover from the Covid-19 crisis. The majority will resume their programmes at some point in 2021/22. Wherever possible, we have tried to reflect this in the guide. However, due to the dynamic nature of the crisis further changes may be introduced at very short notice thus we recommend you check with the funder to ensure that the programme is operating as described before you apply.

**Chapter One: Section Two** provides links to organisations based in your area that offer local funding opportunities and/or help in finding funding for your project. Website links and contact details are supplied and we **strongly recommend** that you contact the organisation to make sure you are eligible to apply before spending time on an application.

## Armourers & Brasiers Gauntlet Trust: Grants for School Science (UK)

### Description

The Armourers & Brasiers Company, one of the leading charities in the UK supporting metallurgy and materials science, offers Grants for School Science to enable schools to purchase **equipment so that students can enjoy practical science**. Small charities and UK primary and secondary schools are eligible to apply. Please see the website for programme opening dates.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £600 for primary schools and £1,000 for secondary schools. Grants can be used to purchase equipment to help students to enjoy practical science, to run science enrichment projects in schools or to enable students to participate in science events and competitions.

**For Example:** St Paul's School, west London, organised a Magic of Materials Summer School

**Website:** <https://www.armourershall.co.uk/funding-grants/support-science-schools>

**Additional Information:** [Primary Science Application Form](#)  
[Secondary Science Application Form](#)

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## B and Q Waste Donate Scheme (UK)

### Description

The B&Q Waste Donate Scheme supplies products and waste materials through all of B&Q's stores within the UK. B&Q donates products and waste materials they haven't been able to sell for re-use such as slightly damaged tins of paint, off-cuts of timber, odd rolls of wallpaper and end-of-range materials. Donated products cannot be resold. Charities, community groups, colleges and schools can apply.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Donated products that will benefit the local community and the environment. Due to its Health and Safety scheme, electrical, petrol and gas items are not available for donation. Applications for donated products must be made directly to B&Q stores.

**For more information**, please contact your local store directly and speak to a duty manager.

**Website:** [https://www.diy.com/faq/charities-sponsorships-donations/1200018.faq?tab=ui-accordion-title-700017#icamp=SRD\\_waste\\_donation\\_scheme](https://www.diy.com/faq/charities-sponsorships-donations/1200018.faq?tab=ui-accordion-title-700017#icamp=SRD_waste_donation_scheme)

## Blue Spark Foundation (England)

### Description

BlueSpark provides funding for projects which aim to improve the **education and development of children and young people** by means of educational, cultural, sporting or other activities. Particular consideration is given to projects which are considered to help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people. Schools, community groups, clubs, societies or other not for profit organisations and individuals can apply at any time. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis approximately every 8 weeks.

**Grant Level and Eligible Costs**

Many grants are under £2,000 and most are for under £5,000.

Funding is provided for relatively small-scale projects which might not happen at all or would only happen on a lesser scale without the support of Blue Spark. Funding provided by Blue Spark must be crucial to the project rather than marginally incremental to its funding.

**For Example:** BlueSpark supported a project to “Bring the West End to Derbyshire Children” by providing funds for 250 disadvantaged children from seven schools in Derbyshire from the Embark Federation to work with West End stars over a 12-month period.

**Website:** <http://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk>

**Additional Information:** [Grant Policy](#) [How to Apply](#)

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## Edina Trust Science Grant Scheme (England, Scotland & Wales)

### Description

The Edina Trust science grant scheme provides assistance to eligible **primary schools** to fund **science projects** through a non-competitive grant scheme. The areas supported vary on a three-year programme - please check the Edina Trust [website](#) for more details. For 2021-22 eligible areas are:

**Blackpool; Bridgend; Fermanagh & Omagh; Knowsley; Neath Port Talbot; Newry, Mourne & Down; Sandwell; South Ayrshire; West Lothian**

See also [Eligible Schools](#). All state-funded primary schools, nurseries and special schools can apply at any time.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

- **Main Grant for "full" Primary Schools** (those with infant and junior pupils) and ASN Schools: £600 per year towards a science project i.e., £1,800 over the three-year scheme.
- **Half Grant for Infant and Junior Schools:** £300 per school year towards a science project i.e., £900 over three years.
- **One-off grant for Nurseries:** £420 grant at any point during the three-year scheme. This includes stand-alone nursery schools and nursery classes within schools. A school may also spend more on their nursery using the main grant, if desired.

Grants can cover: Science weeks; scientific visits; purchase of science equipment (not iPads); improving school grounds for science; gardening resources (up to £420); science subscriptions. See [Tips on Applying](#) for more information and help.

**Website:** <https://www.edinatrust.org.uk/science-grant-scheme>

## Ernest Cook Trust – Outdoor Essentials Grant (UK)

### Description

The Outdoor Essentials Grant is a £500 award to UK state funded Primary and Secondary schools to enable them to get their pupils **learning outdoors**. Applicants can be any UK state funded Ofsted Registered Primary, Middle, Secondary or High school: Any UK state funded Special or Alternative Provision School or: Multi Academy Trusts, but applications must be made by the individual schools. Priority is given to schools committed to enabling Outdoor Learning and see environmental engagement as an important part of education; those that can demonstrate that Outdoor Learning has a wider benefit to families and their local community; schools with disadvantaged pupils and those located in areas of high deprivation and/or have pupils who are living in challenging circumstances.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

A grant of up to £500 supports school travel and transport costs to any centre or provider that can facilitate outdoor learning e.g., outdoor learning centres, forest schools, countryside parks, woodlands, national parks, farm parks, farms (including city farms), coastal areas and beaches. Trips to outdoor adventure centres for outdoor activities (such as kayaking and climbing) may be considered, but nature connection and environmental learning must be the primary focus.

**Website:** <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/everything-outdoors/outdoor-essentials-grant/>

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## Food for Thought: Education Fund (Scotland)

### Description

The Food for Thought Education Fund gives financial support to Early Learning and Childcare Centres, primary schools, ASN schools (including those in the independent sector) and secondary schools in Scotland to help them develop **food and health as a context for learning**. Local Authority Schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings may apply individually or in a joint application as part of a cluster of schools from their education authority.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £2000 are available to develop projects that support the aims of the Fund.

**For Example:** Schools in previous years have used funding for projects such as creating growing gardens or keeping hens, which help towards enhancing knowledge around seasonality, outdoor learning and physical activity. Food grown in school gardens could be used for practical cooking experiences, which can encourage food sharing as a community and help towards learning about issues around local food and sustainability.

**Website:** <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/what-we-do/food-for-thought-education-fund/>

**Further Information:** [Resources](#)

## Greggs Foundation Breakfast Club Grants (England, Scotland, Wales & Belfast)

### Description

The Greggs Foundation now oversees over 465 clubs, providing a **healthy breakfast** to over 30,000 school children every school day and encouraging the involvement of **parent volunteers** in breakfast clubs. The Foundation receives funding from a range of partners, often private sector companies (including Gregg's plc). Primary schools with at least 40 per cent of the pupils at the school eligible to claim free school meals can register an interest at any time, if there is no funding available the application will be added to the waiting list. The school should demonstrate a commitment to engaging parents or other volunteers and the breakfast club must be offered for free to ensure all pupils can attend.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Greggs Foundation makes a grant to set up the club i.e., initial purchases of equipment such as chest freezers to store food items or toys and activities for the club, and a payment each term towards food items. Greggs plc donates bread from the nearest shop.

**For Example:** Swalwell Primary School, Gateshead, where nearly 50% of school children are entitled to free meals, received a grant of £1,100.

**Website:** <https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/breakfast-clubs/how-to-apply>

**Additional Information:** [Application Form](#)

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## Institute of Physics - School Grants Scheme (UK)

### Description

Schools, colleges or home school groups based in the UK and Ireland catering for pupils in the age range 5-19 years can apply for funding for **small-scale projects or events linked to the teaching or promotion of physics and engineering**. Projects linked to astronomy, space and particle physics are particularly encouraged, as are those relating to engineering in areas such as energy, transport, information and communications, design and production and the built environment.

There are three application rounds per year with closing dates on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £600 are awarded for project costs such as running a science week activity, organising a visit to or from a working physicist, supply cover, transport, marketing and publicity, and materials/resources.

**For Example:** St Clements Danes School received a grant for a trip to the JET Fusion Research Facility

**Website:** <https://www.iop.org/about/support-grants/school-grants-scheme>

**For more Information E-Mail:** [schoolgrants@iop.org](mailto:schoolgrants@iop.org)

## Kick Start Grants for British Science Week (UK)

### Description

The **British Science Association**, with funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), is providing grants for schools in challenging circumstances to organise their own **science and engineering events during British Science Week**. Schools with either: a high proportion (over 30%) of pupils eligible for free school meals or the pupil premium; a high proportion (over 30%) of pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds; and/or small schools based in a remote and rural location are eligible to apply. Annual Round dates for each grant stream are published on the website.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

There are four options available:

- **Kick Start Youth:** £150 to run an activity organised by students aged 10-19
- **Kick Start:** £300 to run an activity for students at your school
- **Kick Start More:** £700 to run an activity which involves your students and the local community
- **Kick Start grant + Youth grant:** £450 to run an activity for British Science Week as well as an additional activity organised and delivered by students aged 10-19

Grants can fund a wide range of activities, including but not restricted to: booking a science presenter; organising a memorable science fair; purchasing resources for cross-curricular activities. See [Case Studies](#) for more examples All activities must take place during British Science Week and must be STEM (science, technology, engineering or mathematics) related.

**Website:** <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/about-us/grants/kick-start-grant-scheme/>

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## Lords Taverners Minibuses Grant Programme (UK)

### Description

The Lords Taverners provides **accessible transport for schools catering for young people under the age of 25 who have a physical/ sensory/ learning disability**. These iconic green minibuses enable schools to engage pupils in sporting and recreational activities and help them develop life skills such as visiting shops and interacting with people in the local community. Most importantly, the minibuses provide transport to and from school. Applications are reviewed quarterly. **Please note** that the Lords Taverners are unable to support schools that cater for socially disadvantaged children, or mainstream schools for children with behavioural problems.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Lord's Taverners minibuses are based on the current Ford Transit model, with a diesel engine. The average cost to the charity of an accessible minibus is £52,500.

**Note:** At the time of writing this programme is closed due to over-subscription

**Website:** <http://www.lordstaverners.org/accessible-minibuses>

## The Turing Scheme – Schools (UK)

### Description

The Turing Scheme is a new UK Government programme which will fund **work or study abroad placements for UK students**. UK primary or secondary schools, and national school consortiums can now apply for funding for pupils to take part in 2 types of placements abroad for the 2021-22 academic year: Short-term placements lasting from three days to two months for pupils of any age: Long-term placements which can last from two to six months for pupils aged 14 and over.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Funding will vary depending on the type of placement and the country visited and will cover the administration and implementation of a placement. Under each project:

- £315 will be provided per participant for the first 100 participants.
- £180 will be provided per participant from the 101st participant onwards.

Funding will vary depending on the type of placement and the country visited, and will help to cover travel expenses, costs of living, and administrative funding for delivering the projects.

**Website:** <https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/funding-opportunities/>