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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 in 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 BIG Lottery, the European Commission 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 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 a number of 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 2020, we learned that many of the funders featured have paused their main grant programmes to enable them to offer specific support to organisations needing help to cope with the Covid-19 crisis. The majority will resume their programmes in 2021. Wherever possible, we have tried to reflect this in the guide. However, due to the dynamic nature of the crisis these changes have often been introduced at very short notice.

Chapter One: Section Two offers links to organisations based in your area that offer local funding opportunities and/or help in finding funding for your project.

Ernest Cook Trust – Outdoor Essentials Grant (UK)

Description

The ECT Outdoor Essentials Grant is awarded to UK State funded Primary and Secondary Schools to enable them to get their pupils learning outdoors. Schools that are committed to enabling outdoor learning and see environmental engagement as an important part of education can apply and must also demonstrate that; outdoor learning will have a wider benefit to families and to their local community, will include disadvantaged pupils and that they are located in areas of high deprivation and/or have pupils who are living in deprived areas.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

In 2020, grants of £500 from a total of £200,000 were awarded to be used for the purchase of outdoor clothing and/or welly boots.

Schools will be expected to find a supplier that offers value for money and will be asked to complete a simple online feedback report about how many pupils have benefited from getting access to learning outdoors and an opportunity to connect with nature.

Website: <http://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/ect-outdoor-essentials/>

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Food for Thought: Education Fund (Scotland)

Description

The Food for Thought Education Fund offers financial support to develop food and health as a context for learning. The fund aims to improve practitioner confidence in providing progressive, high quality learning experiences which help to embed food education into the ethos of Local Authority Schools and Early Learning and Childcare settings. It also provides an opportunity to plan and implement learning experiences which build sustainability and capacity for future development. 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: please see [Case Studies](#)

Website: <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/what-we-do/ensuring-the-impact-of-cfe/food-for-thought-education-fund>

Foyle Foundation Schools Library Programme (UK)

Description

The Foyle Foundation recognises that the lack of a statutory requirement for schools to have a library means that many school libraries are in a desperate situation through underfunding and underdevelopment. State funded secondary and primary schools and schools catering for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) that do not have or want to improve their libraries can apply for grants of up to £10,000. Encouraging children to read widely from an early age will provide a major boost to improving literacy levels, which is a current key educational objective for the Foundation. Apply at any time.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

The majority of grants to schools range from £1,000 to £10,000.

Priority will be given to primary schools and funding for library books. The Foundation will also consider contributions towards library software, necessary IT equipment and specialist seating/desks. Preference will be given to schools that can clearly demonstrate that their library can be maintained and renewed in the future.

For Example: Magna Academy, Poole was awarded £10,000 towards library books (£7K) and software/shelving/furnishings (£3K)

Please note that the School Library Scheme is due to be reviewed in September 2020 when the position of re-opening schools following the COVID-19 pandemic becomes clearer.

Website: <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/>

E-mail: info@foylefoundation.org.uk

Frederick Soddy Trust - Schools Award Scheme (UK)

Description

The Frederick Soddy Trust recognises that schools often find it difficult to compete successfully for funds from the main grant-giving bodies or to allocate their own resources to field studies. Working with the Geographical Association, the Trust provides financial support specifically to support school expeditions related to human and physical geography. Schools can apply for the Award Scheme or as a normal expedition. Preference will be given to schools that are applying for funds for expeditions or field study in the United Kingdom and Ireland, have not received a grant in recent years and have at least a strong element of human geography. Winning applicants to the Awards Scheme are invited to receive their awards at the Geographical Association's Annual Conference.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

The sums awarded are normally between £200 and £600, depending on the merits of each project. A grant is not normally given for resources. The awards are made to teams of pupils between 5 and 18 years of age. Grants are awarded once a year, normally in March.

For Example: Parsloes Primary School at Dagenham - a grant to take Year 5 pupils to the Thames Barrier; Churchdown Village Junior School - a grant for fieldwork in the Malvern Hills

Website: <https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/in-the-field-grants/teacher-grants/frederick-soddy-schools-award/>

Additional Information: [Application Guidelines](#)

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. The Foundation also encourages the involvement of parent volunteers in breakfast clubs. The Foundation receives funding from a range of partners, often private sector companies (including Greggs 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](#)

Institute of Mathematics Education Grant Scheme (UK)

Description

Individuals working in secondary schools, Colleges of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) can apply for a grant to help with the costs of running or attending an educational activity relating to mathematics. The types of activities supported can include hosting a mathematics event, e.g. Maths Trails, Maths Competitions; attendance at appropriate conferences such as Mathematics Works; travel expenses to attend appropriate events; supply cover required for the teacher to attend the appropriate event. Individuals working in secondary schools, Colleges of Further Education (FE) and Higher Education Institutes (HEI) can apply at any time before the end of November deadline.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants will be made up to a value of £600 from a total budget of £6,000.

For Example: Successful projects feature on the [website](#)

Website: http://ima.org.uk/about_us/support_and_grants/education_grant_scheme.cfm.html#earn

Institute of Physics - School Grants Scheme (UK)

Description

UK schools and colleges catering for pupils in the age range 5-19 years can apply for funding from the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council 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. The scheme is open to all UK educational institutions (schools and colleges) catering for pupils/students in the age range 5-19. Applications from home school groups will also be considered. There are three application rounds per year with closing dates on 1st February, 1st June and 1st 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

John Lyons Charity – Schools in Partnership Fund (London)

Description

The John Lyon's Charity has [Nine Programmes](#) offering grants to schools for the benefit of children and young people resident in eligible **Boroughs of London i.e. Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington and Chelsea, City of London and the City of Westminster**. All state schools within the beneficial area may apply.

The Charity aims to exploit the crucial link between schools, home-life and community. Schools are encouraged to work together in groups and cluster arrangements, maximising limited resources to impact on a larger number of children and share learning and best practice. Applications should be submitted by groups of two or more schools preferably in partnership with a local voluntary organisation (where appropriate). Applications are considered by the Trustee three times a year in March, June and November.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Schools in Partnership has an upper limit of £50,000 per annum, generally grants awarded are for between £25,000 and £50,000 and funding is available for up to 3 years work.

Successful applications will support the most challenged pupils, strengthen links with home-life and coordinate the support of other available professionals. Typically, they will centre on a key worker, based at the "lead school", who is responsible for the application and reporting process to John Lyon's Charity and for managing the project. Key workers could also move between schools throughout the week, in the case of a therapist for example.

For Example: Queensmill School received £22,000 per year for 3 years for their Adventures in Sound project with Realtime Arts.

Website: <http://jlc.london/schools/what-we-fund-in-schools/schools-in-partnership-fund/>

Additional Information: [How to Apply](#)

Lords Taverners - Funding for Sensory Rooms and Equipment (UK)

Description

Funding is available to schools that cater for young people under the age of 19 who have a physical/ sensory/ learning disability. The Lords Taverners are unable to support schools that cater for socially disadvantaged children or mainstream schools for children with behavioral problems.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

The Lords Taverners will fund up to a maximum of 75% to a maximum of £25,000. Schools will need to make a minimum 25% contribution towards the project. Grants can pay for: Sensory equipment through LT's supplier Experia Innovations; Playground equipment through LT's supplier Inclusive Play; Bikes and trikes through a supplier of your choice

For Example: Crug Glas School in Swansea, which caters for 50 pupils aged 3-19 with profound, multiple or severe and complex learning difficulties, received funding for a new sensory room.

Website: <https://www.lordstaverners.org/how-we-help/young-people-schools/play-spaces/sensory-room/>

Teacher Development Fund (UK)

Description

The Teacher Development Fund offered by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation aims to support the delivery of effective arts-based teaching and learning opportunities in the primary classroom, by supporting teachers and school leaders to develop skills, knowledge, confidence and experience. The Fund supports projects that promote effective and equitable partnerships between primary schools and arts/cultural organisations and artist practitioners

Either a primary school or an arts/cultural organisation may be the lead applicant and each partnership must include one or more arts/cultural organisations. Each participating school should commit at least two teachers and one senior leader to the project, though flexibility can be offered to small, rural schools. The Fund has one deadline per year.

Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Each year around six grants of up to £150,000 are made to partnerships of arts/cultural organisations and five to ten schools, who will work together for two academic years.

For Example: Examples can be found [here](#)

Website: <https://www.phf.org.uk/funds/tdf/#the-purpose-of-the-fund>

Additional Information: [FAQs](#)