

2020

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

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 page for each funding opportunity**. Listed alphabetically, and linked to the corresponding entry in the Table of Contents, each page provides the following information:

- ✓ The name of the grant
- ✓ The funder
- ✓ The geographic area that you need to be within to apply
- ✓ Funding level – how much you can apply for
- ✓ What can be funded
- ✓ Who can apply
- ✓ Examples of schools (or projects) previously funded (where available)
- ✓ Contact details
- ✓ Website address

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

Alice McCosh Trust (UK)

Funder: Alice McCosh Trust

Description

The object of the Alice McCosh Trust is to advance education by providing or assisting with grants for work or study related to natural history and/or the environment.

Geographic Area

UK wide with preference given to individuals from Scotland, England or Turkey

Funding Level

It is anticipated that the Trustees will award a grant in the region of £600 to £1000.

What can be funded?

The grant could, for example, cover the cost of a school field trip or project, an expedition as part of a research project or the development of new teaching materials for schools or institutes of higher education.

Who can apply and when?

Individuals, Schools and higher education organisations. Preference will be given to individuals from (or work relating to) Scotland, England, Turkey or Uganda.

There is a single round of awards every year. Applications are welcomed between 1st October and 30th November in any year.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- The St Thomas More School took school children to North Wales in September 2010. The pupils visited a variety of different environments with a focus on physical geography
- 2016-17 individual award: Charlotte Carne, of the Species Recovery Trust, to undertake surveys of Field Gentian (an increasingly rare wildflower)

Other Award holders can be found [here](#)

Website:

<http://www.thealicemccoshtrust.org.uk/grants.htm>

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

Funder: Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers

Description

The Armourers & Brasiers Company is one of the leading charities in the UK supporting metallurgy and materials science, the modern discipline most closely aligned with the Company's ancient trade of working with metal. The Armourers and Brasiers Company also work in partnership with universities, the leading scientific institutions and industrial partners to ensure that support for materials science components of the school science curriculum is readily available to teachers and students.

Geographic Area

UK wide

Funding Level

Funding is available of up to £600 for primary schools and £1,000 for secondary schools.

What can be funded?

Grants for School Science 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. The Trust does not issue application forms; schools should submit a written application. Information about what to include in your letter of application is available by downloading the relevant scheme guidelines from the website.

Who can apply and when?

UK primary and secondary schools, registered charities.
See website for programme opening date.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- St Paul's School, west London, organised a Magic of Materials Summer School

Website:

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

Awards for All (England)

Funder: The National Lottery

Description

Awards for All England offers grants to projects that improve communities and the lives of people within them. Funded projects must meet one or more of the following outcomes: People have better chances in life - with better access to training and development to improve their life skills; stronger communities - with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems; improved rural and urban environments - which communities are better able to access and enjoy; healthier and more active people and communities.

Geographic Area

England

Funding Level

Grants of between £300 and £10,000 for capital or revenue costs

What can be funded?

Activities funded must benefit the community and may include:

- Hosting an event, activity or performance
- Purchasing new equipment or materials
- Running training courses
- Setting up a pilot project or starting up a new group
- Carrying out special repairs or conservation work
- Expenses for volunteers, pay for workers, professional fees and transport costs.

Who can apply?

Schools, not-for-profit groups, parish/town councils. Apply at any time.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- St Marks' Junior School, Salisbury: £10,000 for a multi purpose shelter for pupils and community use.
- St Annes School, Bristol: £10,000 for their Primary Play Pod
- St John Bosco Catholic primary School: £10,000 for their Half Century celebrations.

Search for more examples of funded projects [here](#)

Website:

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england>

BBC Children in Need - Main Grants Programme (UK)

Funder: BBC

Description

The BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme distributes grants to not for profit organisations that work with disadvantaged children below the age of 18 living in the UK.

Geographic Area

UK wide

Funding Level

Grants of over £10,000. There is no upper limit for Main Grants but BBC Children in Need make very few grants over £120,000.

What can be funded?

Grants are available for projects that help children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing illness, distress, abuse or neglect; any kind of disability; behavioural or psychological difficulties; and / or living in poverty or situations of deprivation. Applications should demonstrate how your project will change the lives of children for the better.

Who can apply and when?

Not for profit organisations such as registered charities; voluntary organisations; schools; churches; and community groups, etc. In the case of schools this must not be for work that they have a duty to fund.

The Fund is open to applications all year round, but there are a number of deadline and award dates throughout the year. Check the [Main Grants](#) web page.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- Castle Wood School, Coventry: £89,779 to provide a fortnightly Saturday Club for disabled children and young people. A diverse range of activities will help develop life skills, provide social opportunities and improve confidence and self-esteem through making new friends.
- Rowan Gate Primary School, Northamptonshire: £24,715 to provide weekly film making sessions for disabled children. The project will develop communication and media skills and increase independence.
- St Joseph's School and Community Steering Group, Allerdale: £61,480 for a project that will provide an after school and holiday clubs to engage disadvantaged young people living in Workington in physical and healthy living activity

Website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b/features/cin-grants-main-index>

[FAQs](#)

Biochemical Society Outreach Grants (UK)

Funder: Biochemical Society Outreach Grants

Description

Through the Biochemical Society Outreach Grants Programme provides grants to support scientific outreach events that communicate the excitement of molecular bioscience to young people and the community.

Geographic Area

UK wide

Funding Level

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to increase participation in the molecular biosciences at school level and the community through engagement activities.

What can be funded?

Within school projects the Society is looking to support projects with emphasis on molecular bioscience for upper secondary school age audiences and above. For primary school age audiences, the focus can be on biology or on all sciences. Applications for funding are invited to assist with the direct costs associated with an event and expenses incurred (e.g. transport and/or teacher cover). Events might include: Exciting activities for a science club; inspiring workshops for students or teachers; engaging lectures from research scientists (including PhD students and post-doc's). You can further improve your application by proving that your proposal is sustainable, repeatable, links several organisations and reaches those who do not normally participate in scientific outreach

Who can apply and When?

Schools, Colleges, Universities and scientifically aware individuals, groups and organizations across the UK. There are two round of applications per year, in September and April.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- Abercanaid Community School, Merthyr Tydfil - an event centred on promoting scientific investigation, scientific thinking and enhancing English language skills.
- Lornhill Academy's "Forensic Crime Scene" project
- CellSplorers - two Aberdeenshire primary school classes (from Inverurie Market Place School) had the opportunity to visit Aberdeen University

Website:

<https://biochemistry.org/education/public-engagement/scientific-outreach-grants/>