

2019

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 each category, we've provided a link to the Case Studies page on our website. Here you will find examples of schools that have successfully drawn down grants for projects falling into that particular 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.

Aldi Scottish Sport Fund (Scotland)

Funder: Aldi

Description

Aldi's goal is to increase the positive impact it has on local communities and through this grant scheme aims to help as many sports clubs as possible. In 2017, 115 clubs across Scotland were supported with grants worth over a total of over £50,000.

Geographic Area

Regions of Scotland where Aldi has a supermarket

Funding Level

Grants of up to £5,000

What can be funded?

A range of costs from activities to sports equipment

Who can apply and when?

Organisations based in Scotland that are a:

- Local, community focused club with Sport at the heart of what you do
- Registered community amateur sports club (CASc)
- School or educational organisation
- Religious organisation
- Scout or Guide group
- Charitable service fund of the Armed Forces
- Community Interest Company

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- Flyers Trampoline Club to buy a new double mini trampoline
- Special Olympics Grampian Area Ski Group, funding to subsidise travel costs for the yearly regional skiing competition in Birmingham

Website:

<https://www.aldi.co.uk/scottishsportfund>

[FAQs](#)

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.

There is a single round of awards every year with applications received between 1st October and 30th November.

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 wild flower)

Website:

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

Aviva Community Fund (UK)

Funder: Aviva Community Fund

Description

The Aviva Community Fund supports projects that make a positive difference to local communities.

Geographic Area

UK wide

Funding Level

The funding levels that can be applied for are: Up to £1,000 (200 awards); Up to £5,000 (24 awards); Up to £10,000 (12 awards); Up to £25,000 (12 awards). If a project is entered by an insurance broker or financial adviser, this will increase its chance of receiving funding as there is a separate set of awards especially for projects submitted by brokers and financial advisers. Every finalist in the £5,000, £10,000 or £25,000 funding levels that doesn't win an award will receive £500.

What can be funded?

Community organisations and charities can apply for funding for projects that fall within one of the following categories: Health, disability and wellbeing; supporting the younger generation; supporting the older generation and Community support. Ideally the project should be completed with the requested funding alone.

Who can apply and when?

UK based not-for-profit organisations including school PTAs. Round dates are announced on the website.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- Albert Primary School (Penarth) PTA for their Summer production
- The R J Mitchell School PTA (Hornchurch) iPads for Education project

More examples of projects funded can be found [here](#)

Website:

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/acfcms/about-the-competition>

BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials (UK)

Funder: BBC Children in Need

Description

BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme supports children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances, and is delivered by Family Fund Business Services. The programme is delivered by the Family Fund and provides items that meet a child's most basic needs such as a bed to sleep in, a cooker to provide a hot meal and other items or services critical to child's wellbeing.

Geographic Area

UK wide

Funding Level

Grants of up to £300

What can be funded?

Critical items such as: Gas or electric cookers; Essential household items, furniture and kitchen equipment; Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations; Baby equipment; Fridges and freezers; Washing machines; Children's beds and bedding

Who can apply?

Applications must be completed by a support worker who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and is capable of assessing their needs. Their organisation should also be able to administer and supervise the grant on our behalf.

Eligible recipients will be:

- Vulnerable children and young people up to the age of 18 who are experiencing a crisis or emergency.
- UK or EU citizens who are normally resident in the UK.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

None available

Website:

<https://www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

Blue Spark Foundation (England)

Funder: Blue Spark Foundation

Description

The Foundation supports the education and development of children and young people by awarding grants to a wide range of projects initiated by many different organisations and individuals. The Trustees value academic, vocational, artistic and sporting endeavour in equal measure but are particularly keen to support projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people. Projects supported can include (but are not limited to):

- Art and design, Drama and Music
- Sport
- Debating
- Public speaking
- Academic education
- Vocational training
- Community projects
- Enterprise projects
- Educational excursions

Geographic Area

England

Funding Level

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 BlueSpark. Funding provided by BlueSpark must be crucial to the project rather than marginally incremental to its funding.

What can be funded?

Grants can cover, for example:

- Educational materials
- Sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- IT equipment
- Drama tuition or production costs
- Music tuition
- Art and design equipment
- Educational training courses
- Vocational training courses
- Educational excursions
- Competitions
- Educational events
- Seed funding for enterprise projects

Who can apply and when?

Schools, charities and individuals can apply at any time.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- St Silas School Liverpool – Funding for a garden area
- Andover Primary School – Funding for robotic programming equipment
- John Gulson primary School, Coventry – funding for 25 bikes and helmets to enable all children regardless of financial situation to take part in cycle lessons

Website:

<http://bluesparkfoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/>

John Lyons Charity – Sports Grants (London)

Funder: John Lyons Charity

Description

John Lyon's Charity gives grants to projects that engage the hardest to reach young people. The Charity recognises the benefits of regular participation in sports and other physical activities and actively seeks to promote opportunities for all children and young people to take part in a variety of sporting activities. It supports measures to help groups that do not traditionally take part in sport find ways in which they can get involved.

Geographic Area

The nine boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster, City of London

Funding Level

No minimum or maximum grant amount and up to three years funding may be available.

What can be funded?

Capital costs (building works, furniture or equipment), revenue costs (salaries or running costs), and project costs

Who can apply and when?

State schools, Independent schools with charitable status working to benefit children and young people in one of the Charity's eligible boroughs. Apply at any time.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- London Academy (formerly Edgware School): £75,000 over three years, to expand the table tennis programme and to increase the number of girls playing table tennis, which now boasts one full-time coach and two part-time coaches, including the Estonian number one female player.
- John Lyon's Charity supports the Greenhouse swimming club on Saturday mornings for young people with learning disabilities in Hammersmith & Fulham. The club, based at St Paul's Girls' School, provides an opportunity for children with special educational needs to learn to swim under the supervision of specialist coaches, supported by volunteers. 40 young people attend it each week.
- William Perkin C of E High School: £45,000 towards the sports pavilion project.

Website:

<http://jlc.london/programme-areas/sports>

Tesco Bags of Help (UK)

Funder: TESCO

Description

Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the sales of the 10p 'Bag for Life' in Tesco stores is being used to fund thousands of community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community. Bags of Help is administered by Groundwork and Greenspace Scotland.

Geographic Area

UK (excluding Northern Ireland)

Funding Level

Customers in Tesco stores throughout the UK will vote for one of three community projects in each local area, with projects changing every other month. Following the vote, the project that received the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £4,000, second place receiving up to £2,000 and third place up to £1,000.

What can be funded?

Direct costs needed to deliver the project; this could range from:

- Purchasing items, which will benefit local community groups, e.g. sports kit, specialised medical equipment, art and crafts materials, spades, litter pickers, camping equipment.
- Improvements to a building that benefits the local community e.g. a Scout or Guide hut, church or village hall, changing facilities for sports.
- Developing an outdoor space play area, allotment, park, school grounds, woodland or wildlife area.
- Running a community event or activity e.g. fun runs, village fete, clean-up day, tree planting and bird watch.
- Supporting seasonal activities such as purchasing new Christmas lights, supporting a Christmas meal for the homeless or a Diwali celebration event for the community etc.

Who can apply and when?

Schools are eligible to apply for grants to support local projects that benefit the community. Voluntary or community organisations, registered charities/companies, health bodies, Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers can also apply at any time.

Examples of Projects Funded (where available)

- Closeburn Primary and Nursery Parent Council: £10,000 for 'Discover and Grow'
- Rudheath Primary Academy: £2,000 towards their outdoor gym
- St Lukes Primary School: £12,000 for their Wonderful Wildlife project

Website:

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/boh-grant-for-project-tes>

[Guidance Notes](#)