

2024

# A-Z Funding for Schools

A Comprehensive Guide to Grants Available to UK Schools



Karen Jones MInstF (Cert)  
And Andreas Lichters

## 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 1: List of Funding Schemes

### Chapter One: Section One: National and Regional 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 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 links 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.

**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. All of these organisations are there to help and will be pleased to talk through your project ideas to make sure you are applying to the most appropriate fund.

## Examples of Grants Listed in the Guide

### **Aldi Scottish Sport Fund (Scotland)**

#### **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 2019, 100 clubs across Scotland were supported with grants totaling over £50,000. Organisations based in regions of Scotland where Aldi has a supermarket can apply. Applicant organisations should be a:

- Local, community focused club or Registered community amateur sports club (CASC)
- School, educational or religious organisation, Scout or Guide group
- Charitable service fund of the Armed Forces or a Community Interest Company

#### **Grant Level and Eligible Costs**

Grants of up to £2,500 are available for a range of costs from activities to sports equipment.

**Regional deadlines apply.** Please check the [website](#) for information on dates for your area.

**For Example:** Falkirk Lawn Tennis Club received £2,500, towards new equipment including tennis nets, balls and rackets, and to fund the delivery of free tennis lessons to local schools in the area.

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

**Additional Information:** [FAQs](#) [Terms & Conditions](#)

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### **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>

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## **Britain Sasakawa Foundation (UK)**

### **Description**

The Britain Sasakawa Foundation makes small grants to organisations (including schools) in the UK that wish to develop links with Japan and Japanese schools. The grants are for activities that support the study of the Japanese language and culture, School, Education and Youth exchanges. The Foundation especially welcomes applications in the fields of Science, Medicine and the Environment, the Japanese Language and Japanese Studies as well as projects involving mutual learning in aspects of modern society.

In the past the Foundation has made grants towards visits between the UK and Japan between teachers and young people and the teaching and development of Japanese language and cultural studies in schools. Individuals or organisations including academics, professionals, creative artists, teachers, young people, journalists and representatives of civic and non-governmental organisations are eligible to apply.

### **Grant Level and Eligible Costs**

Awards average £1,500 to £2,000 and do not normally exceed £5,000-£6,000 for larger-scale projects.

Examples of Projects Funded: Howes Primary School £3,500 to create a Japanese peace garden ‘Islands of Peace’ in Coventry War Memorial Park. See also the Annual Report [here](#)

**Website:** <http://www.gbsf.org.uk/>

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## British Science Week Kick Start Grants (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/>

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

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## Condition Improvement Fund (England)

### Description

The UK Government's Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) is **an annual bidding round** that seeks to keep education provider buildings safe and in good working order. This includes funding projects to address health and safety issues, building compliance and poor building condition. Multi-academy trusts (MATs), stand-alone academies, schools with academy orders, voluntary aided schools and sixth form colleges can apply for CIF. Eligible works can be **condition, condition with expansion and expansion projects**. Full criteria can be found in the [Information for Applicants](#)

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

**Primary and special schools** may apply for funding from £20,000 to £4 million for each project.

**Secondary schools, all-through schools and sixth-form colleges** may apply for funding from £50,000 to £4 million for each project.

Schools and colleges should use their revenue and DFC funding for capital works below these limits.

**Website:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/condition-improvement-fund>

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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 2022-23 eligible areas are:

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Blackpool, Bridgend, Glasgow, Knowsley,

Liverpool, Neath Port Talbot, Sandwell, South Ayrshire

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: £700 per year towards a science project i.e., £2,100 over the three-year scheme.
- One-off grant for Maintained Nurseries: £500 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>

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## 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 Ofsted Registered Primary,

Middle, Secondary or High school may apply. The current round of funding is in support of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative and will cover the purchase of the necessary equipment required for the planting of trees and their ongoing care. Grants also can cover the purchase of Outdoor Learning resources that engage young people with the environment such as bug hotels, bird boxes and mini-beast investigation kits.

#### **Grant Level and Eligible Costs**

A grant of up to £500 is available under two schemes:

**Wellies & Waterproofs:** Outdoor clothing to enable children and young people to learn outdoors.

**Nature and Nurture:** Projects to create areas where young people can connect with nature within school ground or the local community.

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

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## **Foyle Foundation - Schools Library Programme (UK)**

### **Description**

The Foyle Foundation offers grants to state funded secondary and primary schools and schools catering for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) that do not have libraries or that want to improve their libraries. 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**

Most grants to schools range from £2,000 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)

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

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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>

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## Sport Scotland - Facilities Fund (Scotland)

### Description

Sport Scotland's Facilities Fund supports **capital projects** that create or improve places where people take part in sport and physical activity. Resources are targeted around the development of projects that have the greatest impact on Participation and Progression. Priority is given to projects where there is a commitment to the following: Equalities & inclusion: People development: Collaboration & impact. Educational establishments i.e. universities, colleges & school and Voluntary sports clubs (including Community Sports Hubs) as well as other organisations can apply.

Greater prioritisation will be given to projects and applications supporting Return to Sport objectives and outcomes following the Coronavirus Pandemic. As well as those that can clearly demonstrate an embedded inclusive approach such as Changing Lives Through Sport and Physical Activity and target participants in/from SIMD areas or Disability, BAME or other protected characteristic groups.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Awards of up to £100,000 (for projects costing up to £250,000 in total)

**For small projects** (£20,000 - £250,000) for up to 50% of eligible project costs - one stage application process

**For large projects** (over £250,000) for up to 50% of eligible project costs - two-stage process application process

**Website:** [http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/funding/sport\\_facilities\\_fund/](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/funding/sport_facilities_fund/)

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## Grants for Breakfast Clubs (UK)

### Description

Kellogg's has teamed up with Forever Manchester to award grants to school Breakfast Clubs, to help them provide breakfast to those children who need it most. Schools must be based in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. Priority to schools with 35% and above of children eligible for pupil premium funding or eligible for free school meals or that are based in an area which is classified as falling in the 10% of most deprived areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £1,000 are available. To be eligible your breakfast club must be already set up in a school or community organisation in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

**Website:** <https://forevermanchester.com/kelloggs-breakfast-club-programme/>

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## 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

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.

Examples can be found on the website using the link below.

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

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## The London Mathematical Society Grants for Teacher CPD (UK)

### Description

This scheme is intended to facilitate mathematical professional development to allow teachers in UK schools/educational institutions to: Develop their subject knowledge: Engage in a deeper understanding of how to develop mathematical thinking: Appreciate the interconnectivity of mathematical topics: Update themselves on mathematics curriculum reform: Use technology when and where appropriate. Applications must be made by a teacher of mathematics or ITE provider based in the UK from primary school to A-Level or equivalent (inclusive of STEP/AEA). Four rounds of grant applications are considered per year, on a rolling basis.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £400 can cover:

- Attendance at specific one or two-day conferences/events organised by professional mathematical organisations to include a contribution to registration costs and a proportion of the travel and subsistence expenses of attendees.
- Assistance for providers of professional development to run conferences and courses that allow participants to further their professional development
- The costs of external trainers in schools/educational institutions

Website: <https://www.lms.ac.uk/grants>

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## The Turing Scheme – Schools, Higher Education and Further/Vocational Training (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 placements abroad: 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. The programme Prospectus can be found [here](#)

For the **Higher Education Funding Scheme**, the Prospectus can be found [here](#)

For the **Further education (FE) and vocational education and training (VET)** click [here](#)

### 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/>

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## Universal Music UK Sound Foundation - Instrument & Equipment Awards (UK & Ireland)

### Description

The Universal (formerly EMI) Music UK Sound Foundation is an independent music education charity, established to **improve young peoples' access to music education** through the purchase or upgrade of musical instruments and equipment. Check the website for regular round dates.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of up to £1,500 are available as follows:

**Individual Awards:** Individuals in full time education and who are either having regular music lessons from a qualified teacher or are studying music at school/college can apply for funding towards the cost of musical instruments/equipment to further their music education.

**School Awards:** Schools can apply for funding towards the cost of musical resources i.e., instruments, equipment and workshops. **Note:** Staffing costs to cover teaching of the national curriculum or peripatetic music lessons are not funded and applications from Music Services are not accepted.

**UMUKSF Teachers Awards:** Teachers employed within a school setting can apply for funding towards one off music training courses (e.g., CPD) up to £1500 (please note, we cannot fund university/conservatoire tuition fees or private tutors).

**Bursary Colleges:** Apply directly to the relevant college

**Decca Bursary:** Funding is available to eligible individuals towards **classical music** tuition, instruments and courses. Schools may also apply for support towards classical instruments and resources.

**Website:** <https://www.umuksoundfoundation.com/awards/>

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## Wolfson Secondary Education Programme (UK)

### Description

The Wolfson Foundation **supports high-achieving state-funded secondary schools and sixth form colleges** to improve the teaching of science, computer science, design & technology, art, languages, music and performing arts at GCSE and A-Level. The project must cost at least £15,000 and aim to produce one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improved quality of teaching and learning spaces for subjects which require specialist laboratories and technical equipment
- Increased numbers of students taking these subjects
- Improved learning outcomes for students taking these subjects

Decisions on awards are made twice a year usually in June and December.

### Grant Level and Eligible Costs

Grants of £15,000 – £50,000 towards equipment projects

Grants of £15,000 – £100,000 towards new build and refurbishment projects

### Match funding requirements:

- If total project cost is >£1million, 50% match funding is required
- If total project cost is between £50,000 and £1million, some matched funds are required
- If total project cost is <£50,000, no match funding is required

**Website:** <https://www.wolfson.org.uk/funding/funding-for-places/funding-for-secondary-schools-sixth-form-colleges/>

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## Youth Music (England)

### Description

Youth Music invests in **music programmes for children and young people**, and work that will help organisations to diversify and be more inclusive. Programmes funded by Youth Music work with children and young people of all ages, from babies and their families through to young adults up to the age of 25, using the power of music to support musical, personal and social development.

Applicants will be legally constituted not for profit organisations or constituted community groups established for at least one year and based England. Schools are eligible to apply but not for music curriculum activities that could be supported through Department for Education funding. Youth Music will consider applications from schools for projects that have a significant element of

innovative partnership working, benefits to the wider community and include activities that take place out of school time.

#### **Grant Level and Eligible Costs**

- **[Trailblazer Fund](#)**: Smaller grants of £2,000 - £30,000 for organisations that support children and young people facing barriers to make, learn and earn in music.
- **[Catalyser Fund](#)**: Large grants of £30,001 - £100,000 per year (max 2 years) for established organisations that support children and young people to make, learn and earn in music.

**Website:** <http://network.youthmusic.org.uk/Funding/about-youth-musics-grants-programme>

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