



The Learning Escape



Funding Bulletin – Feb 2013

Finding Funds - The Learning Escape Bulletin

You can find funding for your Learning Escape building from a multitude of sources – but how do you know which you are eligible for, and how have other schools funded their buildings?

This bulletin includes case studies of some of the schools we have worked with and we profile some of the main funding sources. You may be able to access local or specialist funding too.

This is not an exhaustive list of sources but is intended to give some ideas and places to start. You can find specialist help on line and here are two sites which might be worth taking a look at.

<http://www.grants4schools.info/>
<http://www.fundraisingschools.co.uk/>

How have other schools funded their Learning Escape buildings?

Project A – Yorkshire Primary School

School A needed a space to provide before and after-school provision. They had a build and furnishing cost of just over £90,000. They also planned for the room to be accessible and alarmed separately to the main school building which meant it could be used out of school hours without disturbing the school day, or incurring extra cleaning and caretaking costs.

The Funding

The Local Authority contacted all schools in the area and made them aware there was funding available for improving Extended Services provision. The Extended Services Coordinator met the Head and supported the school through the bid process, which was straightforward. The school was awarded £50,000.

The school had saved their Devolved Formula Capital for this project, and contributed £35,000.

They also successfully bid for an Awards for All grant of £6,500 for furnishing and fitting the room. Again, this process was very straightforward – find out more about Awards for All below in our Lottery fund profiles.

Project B – Midlands Primary School

School B wanted to extend their nursery provision to full time, improve the learning environment and to ensure accessibility for children with disabilities. They also wanted to be able to offer before- and after- school clubs. The cost of the building they needed was £190,000.

The Funding

School management discovered the Local Authority had funding in the form of Early Years Capital Grant, and believed they would be able to access this for some of the build costs. A governor wrote a business case and completed the documentation, and the school were surprised and delighted to hear that they would receive an Early Years Capital Grant for the full £190,000 cost of the build, as long as the build was completed within a set deadline.

Project C – Primary School in the South-East

School C wanted a room for lessons, nature and wildlife study, wraparound care, and before and after-school clubs. They needed a flexible space, ideally set in a woodland area of the school grounds and costing £145,000. They wanted to access outside funding and knew that a key factor in securing this would be demonstrating that the room would be used by the community. They planned to open the room to youth groups, the local special school, local nurseries, older people from local sheltered housing. In line with the woodland setting, they also used the room for Forest Schools Training.

The Funding

The Business Manager identified likely funding sources, and ensured the building would meet their priorities by forming links with interested community groups. By demonstrating the building would have a real impact on the community, and those most in need, they were able to access a variety of funds to raise the money needed. The Lottery People's Millions provided £50,000, and the central government funded Targeted Support Fund £75,000. The Local Authority provided £10,000 Extended Services Funding, and Awards for All the final £10,000.

Project D – London Borough Infants School

School D wanted two buildings. The first was for teachers to use for planning and preparation, teachers meetings and Governor's Committee meetings, at a cost of £20,000. The second, called The Creativity Room, was to provide a calm space without distractions for children with SEN away from the open plan, visually stimulating main school. It is also used for small literacy groups and wraparound care/after school clubs, with a separate entrance and alarm enabling cleaning and caretaking staff to access the main school building. The cost of the Creativity Room was £45,000.

The Funding

The School Leadership team had included the buildings in the School Development Plan and budgeted for the projects within their Devolved Formula Capital. They worked with the School Escape to get plans and costings early in the process and then saved the Devolved Formula Capital from one year and commenced the build after April when they received the next year's allowance. They found they were able to be creative with other funds from the local authority, and having upgraded the windows and security fencing in previous years were able to move additional funding around to protect their Devolved Formula Capital for the building projects. They also partnered with the Nursery School for wraparound care provision, and some of the equipment for the Creativity Room was funded by the PTA. The school were happy with the way they funded their buildings, as they felt it was quicker and easier than completing grant applications and waiting for the money.

Project E – Norfolk Primary School

The school wanted a building for a variety of uses to enhance the curriculum. This included music tuition, school band practice, drumming sessions, food technology and a food market, and Forest Schools. It was important that the building was stand-alone, so that it could be used at evenings, weekends and during holidays. The school have also been able to hire the building out for private use, including children's parties and wedding receptions, generating income for the school. The cost of build and equipment was £198,500.

The Funding

The school is Voluntary Aided and was able to build up funds with them, and had saved their Devolved Formula Capital for the project. They were able to fund £95,000 from each. The Friends of the school undertook fundraising activities and raised £7,500, and the Forestry Commission provided £1,000 for Forest Schools equipment. The school has now trained all staff to at least Level 1 for Forest Schools, and have worked with other local schools to support them to do the same.

Project F – London Borough Nursery School

The Nursery had a severe lack of space, which was impacting on their ability to provide more than 15 hours care. They had no facilities to provide lunch for the children, meaning that the children had to be picked up at lunchtime. Their building acts as a dinner hall, and provides additional flexible space in mornings and afternoons. The cost of the build was £98,000.

The Funding

The Early Years coordinator from the Local Authority met with the school to discuss the problems and the additional Early Years funding which was available to ensure government targets for nursery provision were met. The coordinator worked with the school to complete the bid and they were successful in winning £78,000 for the project, with the remaining £20,000 from their delegated budget. The process of getting the funds in place took longer than the school would have liked, but was very straightforward.



What types of funding can I access?

Potential funding can be broadly split into three categories – the school's own resources, Local Authority funds and outside funders.

1. School Resources

Some schools have saved their Devolved Formula Capital specifically for their building, and others have been able to supplement this with fundraising events. One school commented that "We knew we wanted the buildings, and they were included in our three year School Development Plan. We accounted for the buildings from three years' Devolved Formula Capital and built our two buildings in separate phases as we accrued the money. I would do it the same way again, we didn't have to fill in forms and wait around for grants".

Voluntary aided schools may have additional funds they can access. Having the money already is clearly the quickest and easiest way of getting your building, but unfortunately is not always possible.

2. Local Authority Funds

Different Local Authorities will have different priorities and pots of money. These funds may also be time- limited and affected by government policy. Main funding streams in recent years have been around Extended Services and Early Years provision, to help schools deliver the government commitments. You may receive a funding newsletter or bulletin from your Local Authority giving details of funds available and projects you may be able to bid for, if you can incorporate their aims into your building.

If your building will address inadequate before and after-school care, make contact with your Extended Services Coordinator or Business Development Officer. They will help you access any available funds. If your building will help you expand your Early Years pre-school provision, discuss with your Local Authority Early Years Coordinator/Business Development Officer as early in the process as possible to see what money is available in your area. They may also be able to support you in making the bid, provide guidance and assistance with form-filling.

3. Outside Funders

The number and variety of outside funders is bewildering. Finding those where you meet the criteria, can demonstrate everything required and can tick all the boxes for their priorities is daunting.

Funders will have different criteria, priorities, geographical focus, and requirements from you, and there are hundreds of them. In this bulletin we have focused on the National Lottery funds and have profiled the best known Lottery funds below. We will focus on other areas, such as charitable foundations and business trusts, in future editions. If you would like advice specific to your project please get in touch.



Profiles of National Lottery Funding

The National Lottery is a major source of funding for projects which will benefit children and young people, families and the wider community. The different funds have specific aims, and you will need to demonstrate that your project will produce the outcomes required. Planning and consultation is crucial, as you will be expected to demonstrate that you have identified a need and involved all the relevant stakeholders at an early stage.

Top tips:

- **Be creative with your project:** If your building will only benefit the school and pupils it may be difficult for you to demonstrate why you are eligible for outside funding. Could community groups use the building at evenings and weekends? Is there a heritage aspect you would like to exploit – could the building also be a community resource for local history? Could you have a focus on healthy living, wildlife or the arts?
- **Consultation:** You will be expected to have consulted the community you want to reach before you prepare your bid. This could include questionnaires to pupils and families, making contact with local youth groups, talking to community organisations, sheltered housing schemes, Sure Start, and voluntary groups to see if they would use your building, and what they would like to use it for. Early consultation can help you design a great project which will benefit as many people as possible, strengthening your bid for funds. Quotes from young people in particular help to make a bid stand out.
- **Tick the boxes:** You will need to be able to meet all the essential criteria for the fund you want to apply for. If you are really struggling to fit a square peg into a round hole it is very unlikely you will be eligible – competition for funds can be fierce. If you are unable to demonstrate that you meet the criteria you'll have to look again at the focus of your project, or look for a more suitable fund.

Clear and concise information is available on each fund's website, but we have summarised a number below. For most funds, you are able to complete a pre-application questionnaire (sometimes this is compulsory rather than optional) and you will receive a quick answer as to whether your project is likely to be eligible for funds. This can save you from wasting time and effort applying for funds for which your project is unsuitable.

Reaching Communities

- £10,000 - £500,000 . Has two strands: Revenue and small capital (£10k - £500k for revenue projects and/or smaller capital projects up to £50k). Buildings (£100k - £500k for large capital projects)
- England only
- The fund aims to encourage the following changes to communities:
 - people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills
 - strong 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.
- Money may be used for purchase of land, buildings and new buildings. You will be expected to demonstrate you have planning permission and that you own the land or the leasehold for land you are intending to build on. You will need to show three competitive quotes for capital building projects.
- This is a popular fund and your application will need to demonstrate that it will have a positive impact for as many people in your community as possible. To be successful you will need to clearly demonstrate that you have involved your local community in the planning of the project, and that they support your aims. You will be required to demonstrate the positive outcomes you expect from your project and to be able to show the numbers of people who will benefit.

More information

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reach_comms_gn.pdf

A clear and comprehensive walk-through of the application process is here:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities?tab=2®ioncode=-uk&

Awards for All (England)

- £300 - £10,000 (max of £10k in one year)
- England only (separate awards for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
- For projects which improve communities and the lives of people in them
- Needs to achieve 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.
- Awards for All will not fund projects which only meet the statutory requirements of schools i.e. to help deliver the national curriculum. Projects must help children learn new things in addition to what is delivered in the school day i.e. before or after school, lunchtimes, weekends or holidays. This may be achieved by involving the local community.
- Awards for All will not fund towards projects, buildings etc which will cost more than £25,000, but phases of a project may be eligible eg landscaping, furnishings/equipment etc.
- You must submit your application at least 3 months before the project is due to start and the money must be spent in 12 months. You will need planning permission in advance, and if you need to raise other funding will need to demonstrate it will not delay your project.
- Apply at <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/apply.html>

Your Heritage

- £3,000 - £100,000
- UK wide
- Aims relate to learning, conservation and participation, and helping people explore their heritage in a fun and enjoyable way.
- To receive a grant your project must help people to learn about their own and other people's heritage. It must also do either or both of the following:
 - conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy.
 - help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.
- You will need a heritage 'theme' for your project. Examples include exploring and preserving memories in an oral history project; cultural history, including of immigration; histories of places and events e.g. development of a village, or the impact of industrial development; preservation of a language, preservation of wildlife and natural habitats.
- The programme will fund capital builds and projects should be completed in three years. The project cannot be part of the everyday work of the organization i.e. it cannot just support the National Curriculum.

More information:

http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Documents/YH_AP_Introduction.pdf

If you would like advice before applying you can complete a pre-application enquiry form, which will give you a quick answer within 10 days as to whether you will be eligible to apply. All application details are available here:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/yourheritage.aspx>

Young Roots

- £3,000 - £50,000
- UK wide
- Young Roots is a grant programme designed to engage young people aged 11-25 with their heritage. Young Roots projects stem directly from the interest and ideas of young people, who are supported by youth and heritage organisations to develop skills, build confidence, and connect with their local communities.
- To receive a Young Roots grant, your project must relate to the varied heritage of the UK and:
 - provide new opportunities for a wider range of young people aged 11 to 25 to learn about their own and others' heritage;
 - allow young people to lead and take part in creative and engaging activities;
 - develop partnerships between youth organisations and heritage organisations; and
 - create opportunities to celebrate young people's achievements in the project and share their learning with the wider community.
- Your project must also create new opportunities for young people to either:
 - volunteer in heritage; or
 - gain skills in identifying, recording, interpreting or caring for heritage
 - If you would like advice before applying you can complete a pre-application enquiry form, which will give you a quick answer within 10 days as to whether you will be eligible to apply. All application details are available here:
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/youngroots.asp>

Heritage Grants

- £100,000+
- UK wide
- To receive a grant your project must help people to learn about their own and other people's heritage
- Your project must also do either or both of the following:
 - conserve the UK's diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy
 - help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.
- You will need a heritage theme and this will be the key focus of your project. This could include language and dialect, history of people, communities, events, the local area, archaeological sites, natural or landscaped areas.
- You must be able to raise part of the project costs yourself.
- The decision makers meet four times per year to consider projects between £100,000 - £2,000,000.
- There are no deadlines for applications. If your project is likely to cost more than £2,000,000 but less than £5,000,000 the board meets 6 times a year with specified deadlines. Projects in excess of £5,000,000 are assessed once a year and again deadlines apply.
- You can complete a pre-application enquiry form to receive advice on whether your application is likely to be suitable (recommended). More information is here:
http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Documents/HG_AP_Intro_HelpNotes.pdf
- and you can apply here:
<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/heritagegrants.aspx>

Grants for the Arts – Arts Council England

- England only
- Schools will not be eligible where only the school will benefit, there must be wider impact for the community and for artists and the Arts
- Projects must have a main focus on the Arts, and must aim to:
 - help more people to take part in the arts
 - provide creative opportunities for children and young people
 - help the development of artists, arts organisations and the creative economy
 - involve the arts and artists in creating vibrant communities
 - allow artists from this country to work internationally, international artists to work in England, and artists from here and abroad to work with each other
 - create opportunities to promote and celebrate diversity
 - improve the performance and productivity of arts organisations and the arts sector
- More information, an online eligibility wizard and contact details for pre-application discussion (strongly recommended) are here:
- <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts/>



Community Sustainable Energy Programmes

- £1,000 - £50,000 or 50% of the project cost, whichever is lower
- England only
- Will support schools with microgeneration technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels, and energy saving measures such as insulation.
- Aims to achieve the following outcomes:
 - reduction in CO2 emissions
 - increased community awareness of climate change and how changes to our behaviour can reduce it
 - increased skills base of local trades (for example, local builders and building services subcontractors working on renewable energy projects for the first time)
 - reduction in energy bills
 - reduction in reliance on imported energy and increased independence from commercial energy suppliers
 - stronger partnerships within communities with lasting social benefits
 - growth of local enterprise in new technologies.
- Apply at <http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/>

What is my next step?

You can contact us today by calling 0800 917 7726 or via e-mail to: robyn@thelearningescape.co.uk alternatively visit our website at www.thelearningescape.co.uk . We are looking forward to hearing from you.

