



TG Escapes

Grants Bulletin  
2019



## Funding your eco-classroom

If you don't have the capital to pay for your eco classroom in one go and don't wish to enter into an operating lease, there are plenty of other options available to you. There are many charitable funds to whom schools can apply to for grants that will cover some of the building costs of your eco classroom.

This funding bulletin aims to help you identify some of the grants which may be available to help your school and we've also included case studies of some of the schools that we've worked with so you can get a flavour for how the funding has worked in practice.

This isn't an exhaustive list of funding sources, however, it will give you a good idea of where to start. Two other excellent sources of information that are definitely worth looking at are:

[Grants 4 Schools](#)

[Funding Education](#)

## Top five grants for school buildings and grounds

### 1. [BBC Children in Need](#)

*The BBC Children in Need grants come in two forms, the Main Grants programme and the Small Grants programme. The Main Grants programme awards grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years (up to £20,000 for building projects); the Small Grants programme provides grants of up to £10,000 per year for up to three years.*

Each year, BBC Children in Need awards grants to charities and not-for-profit organisations which support disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. These organisations make a difference to children's lives by either working with them to improve their livelihoods and education or improving their social and physical environments.

Grant applications must reflect these core principles in one way or another:

- They must be focused on positive outcomes for children and young people.
- Address disadvantaged children in local communities and aim to improve their lives.
- Proof of safeguarding children that would otherwise be in danger of physical or emotional harm.
- Enable the participation by children and young people in activities and mentoring which will improve their lives.
- Avoiding statutory overlap or substitution.

Schools can apply for grants, but need to demonstrate how their project would benefit young people outside of school hours as well as in the classroom.

Top tips for applying to BBC Children in Need

- The current application deadlines for this year's grants are the 3 March 2019 and the 27 May 2019 for Small Grants, and 28 May for Main Grants, although further dates may become available later in the year.
- All applications must be submitted before midnight on the deadline date and a decision will be made roughly within 3 months for Small Grants and within 5 months for Main Grants.
- Applications must demonstrate how your project will change the lives of children for the better.
- Only a few grants will receive more than £120,000 or £40,000 per year.



## 2. [Awards for All \(England\)](#)

*Awards between £300 and £10,000.*

Awards for All offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for grassroots projects and community activities that aim to improve lives of local people and neighbourhoods. The grants don't have a deadline and you can apply at any time.

Awards for All is open to any community or not-for-profit group, parish or town council, health body or school.

Suitable outcomes and projects:

- The project will help people have better chances in life with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- Stronger communities will be built with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- Will improve rural and urban environments which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- The project will help people become healthier and more active, improving the overall health of the community.
- Repairs and conservation work.

Awards for All doesn't 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 during the school day, for example, before or after school, at lunchtime, weekends or during the holidays.

Although Awards for All won't fund projects which cost more than £25,000, phases of a building project may be eligible, e.g. landscaping, furnishings or equipment, which could help to free up funds in the school budget towards the cost of the build.

### Top tips for applying to Awards for All

- Demonstrate in your application how your project will benefit the wider community.
- Never ask for the full £10,000; always match fund with some of your school budget or PTA monies if possible.
- Read Awards for All's online guidance before applying to make sure this is the right grant for you.



- The decision to give funding to your project will take approximately 10 weeks.

### Foyle Schools Library Scheme

*Majority of grants to schools range from £1000 - £10,000.*

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant-making trust that distributes grants to schools in the UK who are in need of a library or need their library updating and renovated due to a lack of investment and support. The majority of its funding for schools is directed through its Foyles School Library Scheme, which gives priority to primary schools over secondary schools, however the latter can still apply for a grant if they do not have a library or their library is unusable.

Its main interest is in funding reading books for schools, however it will also consider contributions towards library software, necessary IT equipment and furniture which are required to enhance pupil's learning experience and overall education.

Main criteria for applications:

- The school is lacking a library or suitable library for effective learning support, particularly if the school is a primary school.
- A lack of reading material and educational books/literary work in the school is significantly affecting the education of the school's pupils.
- The grant will only pay for reading materials and, in some circumstances, library equipment such as computers and furniture. It is very rare that structural costs will be covered.

### Top tips for applying to The Foyle Schools Library Scheme

- The grants do not have a deadline and you can apply at any time.
- Newer institutions are less likely to receive a grant due to a smaller track record of the school's literary needs.
- Demonstrate in your application how you will maintain and renew your library in the future and how your PTA will support the project
- Although major school building projects are unlikely to be supported, a grant could be used to help free up funds in the school budget towards the cost of the build or simply to build a dedicated eco classroom as a library.
- If a grant is awarded, it can only be used for purchases after the award date and the grant must be spent within six months of being awarded.
- Paper applications are no longer accepted, and must all be made online on The Foyle Foundation's website.



### 3. The Foyle Foundation Main Grants Programme - Learning

State funded secondary and primary schools can apply for other, non-library related projects with direct educational benefit under the Main Grants Scheme (Learning). Any state funded school can apply; independent schools won't usually be supported unless they are in dire need of educational materials.

It doesn't have a deadline and you can apply at any time.

Key areas for support are:

- Libraries, museums and archives.
- Special educational needs (SEN) institutions may be considered for additional programmes and educational support.
- Projects that encourage sustainability by reducing overheads or generating additional revenue.
- Projects and activities which increase access and widen the diversity of visitors and pupils.

#### Top tips for applying to The Foyle Foundation Main Grants Programme

- Demonstrate why your project cannot be funded from statutory funding or any other financial avenue.
- Major schools building projects generally do not receive funding, however Foyle Foundation Main Grants may help alleviate school funds in other areas, freeing them up for new building projects.
- Focus your application on how your project will develop the ability of children and young people to access learning and educational opportunities.
- The grants do not have a deadline and you can apply at any time.



#### 4. The Garfield Weston Foundation

*Provides regular grants up to £100,000 and major grants for £100,000 or more*

The Garfield Weston Foundation is a charitable grant-making foundation which supports a wide range of causes across the UK. The Foundation donates over £70 million annually to community, educational, health, environmental projects as well as many other types of charitable institutions and projects.

The Foundation's Trustees have a preference for charities and institutions which are aimed at improving the lives of local communities and young people, especially in areas that are at an economic disadvantage. In terms of education, the Foundation has given financial support to a number of educational projects including Teach First and UK Summer Schools (Sutton's Trust).

Important information and criteria for the Foundation's grants:

- Institutions need to demonstrate they are meeting a certain need effectively or have plans to do so, i.e. have a clear outcome which will benefit those in need of support and a clear plan of action which is both financially and physically viable.
- Grants fall into one of three categories – capital, revenue (core costs) and project work.
- Capital and project grants are the most likely to be given to educational institutes for any kind of building project, however, a grant is unlikely to be given for more than 10% of the total project cost.

#### Top tips for applying to the Garfield Weston Foundation

- Be sure to include a sensible business plan with your application.
- Create a clear, step by step plan as to how your project will benefit your school and its pupils as well as how it will receive additional funding and its long-term sustainability/benefits.
- Check whether you are eligible to apply for grants with the Garfield Weston's [eligibility quiz](#).
- Ensure you have a copy of your organisation's latest audited accounts.
- The grants do not have a deadline and you can apply at any time.



## More Top tips for all grants:

1. **Allow plenty of time.** Pulling together a comprehensive bid takes longer than you think; you'll be kicking yourself if you miss a deadline so read up on application dates, deadlines and the criteria needed to fulfil a grant well in advance of making the application.
2. **Choose your fund carefully.** Always read the guidance and eligibility criteria. If in any doubt, pick up the phone and give the fund a call – they'll be more than happy help. You can save time and complications by making sure you don't apply to an inappropriate scheme for you.
3. **Get creative.** Though your main concern may be getting extra space for your school, be aware that you'll probably have a much better chance of success if you make it available to community groups too. Look at what the different funds are most concerned about and see if your project could be tweaked to be more appealing to them and their cause.
4. **Other methods of funding.** Not all grants give money towards building projects, however this still doesn't mean you can't apply for them. Think about where else your school may need additional funding and whether there are any grants which may help in these areas. This way you can direct funds you would otherwise spend on these towards new building projects.
5. **Consult.** Talk to the wider school community and local community as early in the process as possible to understand what they want from the project. Early consultation can help you design a really strong project that will stand out and is more likely to be considered by the fund's holders when assessing the project.
6. **Tell a compelling story.** Remember that you're essentially selling your project. Have clear aims, and include a convincing narrative as to how you're going to achieve them. Make sure you get across why you need the funding and create a strong message that is clear, focussed and, most important of all, genuine.



## Case studies - How have other schools funded their Learning Escape buildings?

### Case study 1 – A primary school in Yorkshire

The school needed a space for before- and after-school provision. They wanted the room to be accessible, and alarmed separately to the main school building so that it could be used outside of school hours. The build and furnishing cost was just over £90,000.

The school applied to their local authority for Extended Services provision, and was awarded £50,000. They had saved its Devolved Formula Capital for the project, which contributed £35,000. They also successfully bid for an Awards for All grant of £6,500 for furnishing and fitting the room; their experience of the bidding process was that it was very straightforward.

### Case study 2 – A primary school in the South East

The school wanted a room for lessons, nature and wildlife study (including Forest Schools Training), and before- and after-school clubs. They needed a flexible space, ideally set in a woodland area of the school grounds. The total build cost was £145,000.

Recognising that they would need outside funding, the school worked hard to forge links with a variety of different community groups to whom the room would be made available. Demonstrating that the building would have a real impact on the community and those most in need enabled them to be able to access a variety of different funds. The Lottery's People's Millions (now closed) provided £50,000, the central government's Target Support Fund provided £75,000, the local authority gave £10,000 from its Extended Services Funding budget, and Awards for All contributed the final £10,000.

