



The Learning Escape

Funding Bulletin 2015



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.fundingeducation.co.uk/grants-for-schools.html>

Top five grants to apply to...

1. [BBC Children in Need - Main Grants Programme \(UK\)](#)

Up to £20k for buildings, Playgrounds, Sports pitches etc.

The BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme distributes grants of over £10,000 to not for profit organisations such as Registered charities, Voluntary organisations, Schools, Churches and Community groups, etc that work with disadvantaged children below the age of 18 living in the UK. In particular, 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.

- ***Top Tip - Applications should demonstrate how your project will change the lives of children for the better***

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

Awards for All, England offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for projects that improve communities, and the lives of people within them. It is for voluntary and community groups, schools and health organisations, parish and town councils. To do this Awards for All fund projects that 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.

- ***Top Tip - Applications should demonstrate how this project ties in with the community for example after schools clubs to keep children off the streets, Scouts/Brownies, Mother and toddler groups, other schools using the building***
- ***Top Tip - Never ask for the full £10k always match fund with some of your school or PTA monies if possible***

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 e.g. landscaping, furnishings/equipment etc. This could help free up monies in your school budget towards the cost of the build.

3. Foyle Foundation Main Grants Programme (UK)

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust that distributes grants to UK charities whose core work is in the areas of Arts and Learning. There is also a small grants programme to support smaller charities in the UK, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. Since it became operational in November 2001, the Foundation has disbursed over £49m in grants. Grants are available for both capital and revenue projects. Applicants need to be organisations with registered charitable status

- ***Top Tip - Foyle Foundation have monies available for funding Libraries.***

4. [BBC Children in Need - Small Grants Programme \(UK\)](#)

BBC Children in Need Small Grants programme distributes grants of up to £10,000 to not for profit organisations such as Registered charities, Voluntary the Local Area. Grants can range between £5,000 and £25,000 and occasionally the Trustees make a recurring grant of up to three years. In addition a small grants programme facilitates awards of up to £5,000.

5. [Learning Through Landscapes \(LTL\)](#)

LTL is the national school grounds charity. They believe school grounds play a vital role in every child's learning and development. They are unique spaces, providing safe and diverse opportunities for understanding, achievement, healthy exercise and play.

LTL aims to help schools and early years settings make the most of their outdoor spaces for play and learning.

Applications are invited from LEA maintained Nursery, Primary, Secondary or Special Schools looking for help to fund projects to improve their outdoor spaces for pupils.

T: 01962 846 497 (England & Wales), 01259 220887 (Scotland)

W: www.ltl.org.uk

E: programmes@ltl.org.uk

More Top tips for all grants:

- 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.

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 – Primary School in the South-East

School B 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