



Raising the Bar 2015-2017

*Ensuring every child in Suffolk
can achieve their full potential*

External Funding for Schools Factsheet

Whilst schools invariably must pay for most things through the regular school budget, there are also many funds available to schools that can help with a wide range of projects. These range from funds aimed at supporting academic achievement and focused on the school day to funds that support activities taking place outside of curriculum time. This factsheet will hopefully help point you in the direction of funds and give some useful guidance if you are considering seeking external funding.

Raising the Bar Challenge Fund

The Raising the Bar Challenge Fund was designed by Suffolk County Council to support schools implement projects to raise the academic achievement of children in Suffolk. It provides seed funding for evidence based practice. Schools are expected to work collaboratively with other Suffolk schools.

So far, there have been four rounds which have had the following themes:

Round 1: Literacy and Numeracy in primary schools

Round 2: Ambition and innovation

Round 3: Closing the gap between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils

Round 4: A joint fund with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to enable schools to implement interventions that had been proven successful in EEF trials.

So far, 179 schools have successfully bid for funding for one or more projects.

The fund is currently closed pending decisions on future priorities. The Challenge Fund webpage can be found here <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/raising-the-bar/funding/the-challenge-fund/>. New rounds of funding are promoted to schools on the Suffolk Headlines e-newsletter that heads receive.

How Suffolk County Council can help you seek funding

Suffolk County Council has a detailed database of funding opportunities that schools are eligible for on its Raising the Bar webpages. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/raising-the-bar/funding/other-education-funding-opportunities/>

Suffolk County Council's external funding team can also offer advice and guidance on accessing funding. You can contact us via email: fundingenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk or follow our twitter account which highlights a wide range of funding opportunities for all types of organisations <https://twitter.com/fundingsuffolk>

If you have the enhanced finance package from [Schools Choice](#), you have access to support for bid writing.

Top Funders for Schools

In brief here are some of the top funders for education projects. For a detailed list, please check the database on our website.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/raising-the-bar/funding/other-education-funding-opportunities/>

Fund/Funder	What they fund in brief	Level of funding	Web link
Big Lottery Awards for All	Funds a wide range of community based projects. Will fund school projects that are focused on things that happen out of taught time (e.g. before/after school, lunch). Many schools have been successful bidding for play equipment, outdoor equipment or out of school projects around sport, computing and wellbeing.	Up to £10,000	www.awardsforall.org.uk
Clore Poetry & Literature Awards	Supports participatory learning project and programmes focused on literature, poetry and creative writing for under 19's	£1,000 - £10,000	http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk/poetry-and-literature-awards
Education Endowment Foundation	The EEF fund projects that test the impact of interventions through robust evaluation. Schools can apply for projects themselves or they can take part in funded projects to test interventions.	£50,000 +	https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/funding/
Foyle School Library Programme	Grants to help schools in areas of deprivation improve their school library provision	£10,000 on average	http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/state-schools.php
Heritage Lottery Fund	HLF have several funds. The Young Roots programme which is for projects engaging young people aged 11-25 with Heritage is most relevant to schools. Projects should be out of school time.	£10,000 - £50,000	https://www.hlf.org/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	Have a range of funds aimed at supporting young people's wellbeing and academic achievement with a focus on arts and culture.	Varies	http://www.phf.org.uk/our-work-in-the-uk/
Funding from STEM related societies	There are several science societies that offer small grants programme for science enrichment activities and in some cases teacher CPD funding or opportunities	Varies but usually in the region of £250 - £3,000	http://royalsociety.org/education/partnership/ http://www.iop.org/about/grants/school/page_38824.html http://www.rsc.org/awards-funding/funding/#education-outreach http://www.microbiologysociety.org/grants-prizes/education-outreach-funds.cfm https://www.lms.ac.uk/grants/small-grants-education
Sport England	Sport England have several grant programmes that schools can apply to for sporting equipment, premises refurbishments and sporting projects.	Varies	https://sportengland.org/funding

Some other funding hints and tips of relevance to schools

Evidence of need

Funders have limited money so to help them prioritise their funding decisions, they will want to see evidence that shows the need for the project and evidence that the proposed project will make the difference anticipated. Schools can be in a very good position to do this because pupil progress is tracked so you will usually have useful data already to hand to show the issue you want to address.

Evaluation and Impact

Funders are increasingly expecting organisations they fund to provide good quality project evaluations so they can see the impact of a project. In years gone by, attendance on the project and whether participants enjoyed it could often be enough but nowadays funders want more robust evidence about the impact a project has had on the participants. Again, a school can be in a good position to do this because they will often be able to understand how a project has impacted on a pupil not only within the project but also more widely in the classroom

Costs of running a project

Don't forget that projects will often need some sort of management. Whilst small projects can often be looked after by an existing member of staff, larger or more complex projects might need at least some level of resource. With most funders you can usually claim some or all of the costs of managing the project. This is usually known as "full-cost recovery". Before applying check if the funder allows this and if so, make sure you put in realistic costs to cover the management of the project as well as the actual project activity.

PTA's

Sometimes schools are not eligible to apply to some funds but in some cases a PTA may be eligible. Make sure you read the eligibility criteria closely as you may find you can access a fund even if the school cannot be the applicant.

Consider working with the Voluntary and Charitable Sector

Whilst schools can access a range of funds, the voluntary and charitable sector have access to a significantly greater number of funds. Where you have a project idea or an issue you want to address and you are not eligible for funding then it can be worth considering whether there are any charitable organisations that either offer a service that meets your needs or that you could develop a project with. They may then be able to seek funding to deliver the project with you.

Typically, this approach is worth looking at for projects that are delivered out of school time. For example, a charity in the West of the county has done several projects with local schools to build confidence and self-esteem in pupils and encourage parents to engage with education more. They worked closely with the schools to target the pupils and parents that would most benefit from the project and then successfully sought funding to run the project.

The Raising the Bar Community Fund is a Suffolk County Council initiative to support the charitable sector work in partnership with schools to raise educational attainment. <http://suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/raising-the-bar-community-fund/>

You might need to consider if the wider community can benefit

Often where schools are eligible for funding, the funders can be keen to see that there is a wider benefit to the project. Typically, this is most often seen in funding for infrastructure projects. For example, a Suffolk primary school was successful in gaining a new AstroTurf sports pitch in the Sport England Primary Spaces Fund, in their application they had to show how the pitch would be used not only by the pupils during the school day but also by others. Several community groups use the school out of hours such as Brownies and Guides, there is a community run pre-school on site and the school runs lots of after school sports clubs so these groups having access to the pitch showed a wider community benefit. Schools usually have very good links to their local community so there is often a way that the wider community can benefit from a project, though a school should of course bear in mind that sometimes this might mean there is a need for some need for ongoing resource to manage things (e.g. a community club accessing a sports facility may need a caretaker to let them in and then lock up afterwards).