

Funding for Outdoor Learning

Planning your fundraising

There are a range of ways you can find funds or other resources to support your school grounds project, from PTA fundraisers to gifts in kind from local shops and businesses, from volunteer time to applications for grants. In this information sheet we focus on the latter – where you might go to apply for funding from trusts and others who provide funding to schools.

Before you apply here are a few key pointers to help you have the best chance of success:

- Look locally – there may well be local companies, supermarkets and trusts that you can apply to. Many funders like to give back to their local communities and schools can be seen as being at the heart of that community.
- Identify a need – funders like to show that their money is doing good so help them to see what difference their money will make. You may need to support your application with evidence of what your project is designed to achieve. Our website has a [whole section on evidence](#) so do see if there is something there that will help support your case.
- Keep information about your project – your vision, your aims, what you have achieved to date – so that funders can see where you have come from and where you are aiming to reach. Photographs also really help you tell your story.
- Check the criteria of the grant you are hoping to apply for – do not waste your time on something that might fit if you push it hard and do really focus on what their priorities are in your application.
- Make sure you have a realistic budget – funders want to know that their money is being spent well.
- Do find out how many applications they are likely to get and how many grants they are giving out so you know where to put your energy.
- Read your application back to yourself many times – even better, get someone else to read it through together with the criteria for the grant. This will help you to see what the person reading your application will see. A second set of eyes will help you spot typos and spelling mistakes!
- Use your pupils' voices – they are the best at telling your story so use quotes from them about what the project means to them. Engage them to develop your project ideas too – many funders like to see how you have consulted with your audience.
- Celebrate success! Invite funders, especially if they are local, to see what you have done and to thank them. Building a relationship with a funder will help you obtain more funding in the future.



Sources of funds

Our own [LtL Local Schools Nature Grants](#) – offering training and equipment to support outdoor learning in schools.

In England or Wales, you can use your [Sports Premium Funding](#). All schools receive £16,000 plus £10 per pupil annually. Ofsted will be looking for impact that the money brings, this includes ‘Embedding physical activity into the school day through an active playground’.

Company Match funding or Company Giving – many companies will donate items, labour or small amounts of money to local schemes. There is often a ‘payback’ needed such as a nice newspaper article or a plaque from a sponsor. Work out who your local companies are and get pupils to write to them asking for specific items such as trees, labour to build a new path or clothing. We have examples of companies as diverse as Starbucks, B&Q, Scottish Hydro, Jewsons and Royal Bank of Scotland donating items or time to school grounds improvements.

Further sources of grants and funding are listed in the tables on the following pages.

We recommend that you also visit www.grants4schools.info and www.fundingscotland.com for more ideas.

This document is updated annually and was last updated in March 2023. Please do let us know if any links change – enquiries@ltl.org.uk



FUNDER	GRANT VALUE	AREA COVERED	DETAILS
Tesco	Up to £1,500	UK-wide	Applications are open to all local good causes, but currently prioritising helping projects that support food security, children and young people and local store nominated good causes.
BBC Children in Need	Various	UK-wide	Several funding programmes open at any one time. Before you apply, it is important that you choose the one which is right for you and your organisation.
Screwfix	Up to £5,000	UK-wide	Supports projects focussed on improvement of community facilities and deprived communities. Ideal for schools with open grounds or 'stay and play' opportunities.
National Lottery	From £300 to £1M	UK-wide	Various projects across the UK. Check out the website for projects available.
The Wolfson Foundation	Up to £100,000	UK-wide	Allocates grants to secondary schools, with a focus on science and technology or special schools (under the Health and Disability programme). They have funded outdoor learning environments and resources.
The Finnis Scott Foundation	Up to £10,000	UK-wide	Grants of up to £10,000, but usually around £5,000 to registered charities with a horticultural focus. PTAs can apply.
Nineveh Charitable Trust	Up to £10,000	UK-wide	Supports projects and activities that educate children, young people, and the local community about the environment, conservation, and the countryside.
Woodland Trust	Free packs	UK-wide	A wide range of tree packs available including hedge, copse, blossom and wild wood.
International Tree Foundation	Up to £6,000	UK-wide	Programme supports grassroots community engagement in tree planting, from community orchards to native woodland planting.



The Tree Council	Free packs	UK-wide	Free orchard tree and hedgerow packs to inspire teachers and pupils across the country to get outdoors to connect, learn about, plant and care for trees.
Wooden Spoon Grant	Up to £5,000	UK-wide	Projects that make a positive impact on children and young people's lives, including a focus on health and wellbeing and outdoor learning projects.
The Royal Society	Up to £3,000	UK-wide	Grants available for STEM projects run at a primary or secondary school or college in partnership with a professional scientist or engineer.
Edina Trust	Up to £700 per year for 3 years	UK-wide, specific areas	Non-competitive grant scheme for various areas across the UK. Grant paid for 3 years. Schools can use their grants for science resources and improving school grounds for science.
Field Studies Council	Up to £2,500 per year for 3 years	England, Scotland, Wales	Provides grants to enable school visits to their facilities.
Morrisons Foundation	Up to £25,000	England, Scotland, Wales	Grants to registered charities. Previous successful applications have included funding for improving play areas and other outdoor areas.
Greggs Foundation	Up to £2,000	England, Scotland, Wales	For schools wishing to improve their physical environment in a way that also benefits the wider community.
BlueSpark Foundation	Up to £5,000	England	Supports projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children (aged 5+) and young people.
Landfill Tax Funding - through Entrust	Various	England and Northern Ireland	Gives grants to projects that benefit communities living near landfill sites.
Historic Environment Scotland	Free entry and travel subsidy	Scotland	Travel subsidy and free entry for historical learning visits.



Wales Council for Voluntary Action	£5,000 - £49,999	Wales	Supports local community and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill, focussing on biodiversity, waste minimisation and wider environmental enhancements.
Heart of Bucks Community Foundation	Up to £5,000	Buckinghamshire	Grants for schools to support environmental projects initiated and led by the school's students. Funding is available to School Councils or similar student bodies.
Metropolitan Public Gardens Associations	Up to £1,500	London	Small grants and practical assistance to sites across London, providing the means to create better and greener public spaces
John Lyons Charity	Usually £20,000 to £30,000	North West London	Supports schools in North West London, including capital costs towards improving young people's life chances through education and wellbeing.
Severn Trent Community Fund Awards	£2,000 - £200,000	Severn Trent region	Funding projects that link to three key elements of People, Places and Environment
Asda Foundation	£5,000 - £25,000	Close to Asda store	Current grant supports local, grass roots, community led organisations that are making a positive difference in their local area.
Ford Britain Trust	£250 - £3,000	Close to Ford locations	Projects focusing on education, environment, children, the disabled, youth activities and projects that provide clear benefits to the local communities.
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)	Various resources and prizes	Near a WWT centre	Specifically for children from disadvantaged areas in England, Wales and NI near a WWT centre.
Moto Services	Average grant is £1,000	Within 15 miles of a Moto site	Available to community schools within 15 miles of a Moto service site, have opportunities for Moto staff to be involved, or are happy to support their Moto site with their fundraising events.

