



ACE Dance and Music Saturday Class  
Christmas Gala performance

Image © Graeme Braidwood

## NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

# Children, young people and learning

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access funding programme for individual practitioners, arts organisations, libraries, and museum projects.

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[artscouncil.org.uk](https://artscouncil.org.uk)

# What's Inside

This information sheet relates to Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants. It can be used alongside the Project Grants 'How to Apply' guidance documents to support you to make your application.

See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this information sheet, we will talk about the following:

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# Children, young people and learning

We want more children and young people to experience the richness of creativity and culture. By children and young people, we mean anyone from birth up to the age of 25 years. One of the ways we can achieve this is through Project Grants.

## What you can apply for

We can support creative and cultural activity which takes place in formal and informal settings for children and young people, for example:

- early years settings, e.g. nursery schools, children's centres
- primary secondary or special schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)
- further education colleges (FE) and higher education (HE/universities)
- youth settings e.g. a youth club or a youth service-led activity
- youth justice settings
- an arts or community venue
- a museum or library
- an open space

### Activities in formal education settings

If you apply for activities mainly taking place within a formal education setting;

- The activity must clearly benefit wider communities and/or individuals. This might include parents, partner schools, creative or cultural practitioners and/or local residents as well as pupils. For example, if

touring work into schools you could consider how your activity will connect with teachers and local cultural venues or practitioners to ensure a legacy.

- We need to know what this benefit to wider communities and/or individuals will be and how they will be engaged. For example, they might experience your activity as creative or cultural practitioners, participants, collaborators and/or audience members
- You must demonstrate that activity is additional to the core taught curriculum – for example, touring into schools
- You should tell us about the creative and/or cultural outcomes for children and young people

Applications from schools would be strengthened by evidence of partnerships with other schools, cultural organisations, museums, libraries, and/or artists. While you may apply for funding for one-off activities, we are more interested in supporting sustained programmes of work that will provide long-term benefits for communities and individuals.

## What you cannot apply for

### **National curriculum delivery**

We cannot fund activities that would usually be delivered by statutory education funding or youth sector bodies. For example; national curriculum delivery or education up to 16 years.

We cannot fund supply teacher fees or any other costs which are directly related to the delivery of the national curriculum. This should be paid for through school or college budgets.

## Students and fees

We cannot fund students (directly or indirectly) in statutory education, further education or higher education (undergraduate or postgraduate) for:

- activities directly linked to their formal course of study
- activities which contribute towards their course assessment
- their tuition fees or living costs

## Music Education Hubs core or extension roles

We cannot support projects related to the core or extension roles for [Music Education Hubs](#) outlined in the National Plan for Music Education. This is because they are already supported by Department for Education funding through Arts Council England. This means that we can only support applications from Hub lead organisations (and recognised Hub partners) if the proposed activity is additional to these responsibilities.

There is one exception. **We can** support activity which delivers against the 3rd Extension Role in the National Plan for Music Education which is:

- to provide access to large scale and/or high-quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues.

If you are a Music Education Hub planning to apply, please read our [Funded Organisations information sheet](#) before applying.

## Accreditation of courses

We cannot fund activities relating to the accreditation of courses. This is because we are not the appropriate funding body to do so. The Sector Skills Councils lead on qualification reform and accreditation, and the Office for

Students funds Higher Education provision.

## Key things to remember

Consider these markers of best practice, or top tips, when developing a project that is either for, by or with children and young people.

### Experience

The creative or cultural practitioners involved are experienced in providing high quality activities for children and young people.

### Designing the activity

Children and young people are involved in developing parts of the project, working with creative or cultural practitioners.

### Outcomes

The project will provide clear creative and/or cultural outcomes for children and young people, their families, the wider community, and/or practitioners. It may also support the attainment of wider personal, social, community, health and wellbeing, or other outcomes. There are plans to measure the outcomes and to ensure that these benefits can be sustained long-term. The project clearly differentiates between outputs or activity and the outcomes or impact.

### Transferable skills

The project provides opportunities for children and young people to gain new skills and progress into the creative industries. This could be through participation, training, work-based learning or employment.

In addition, the project supports the professional development of any teachers, creative practitioners and other adults working with children and young people.

### **Safeguarding children**

It is your responsibility to consider the safeguarding and protection of the children and young people you work with. You must ensure that a safeguarding policy and appropriate procedures are in place. Find more information from the [NSPCC](#).

## **Quality principles for working with children and young people**

We want to develop and show the quality of the work that organisations deliver by, with and for children and young people. With the sector, we have developed seven principles for organisations to embed into their work:

1. Striving for excellence and innovation
2. Being authentic (providing 'real' experiences)
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience
5. Actively involving children and young people
6. Enabling personal progression
7. Developing belonging and ownership

Find out more about these Quality Principles on our website [here](#).

# Children, young people and learning within our strategy

Our 10 year Strategy, [Let's Create](#), has three Outcomes. One of these Outcomes is 'Creative People'. Each of these Outcomes has elements relating to our priorities for children, young people, and learning.

## **Creative People**

### ***Everyone can develop and express creativity throughout their life***

Within this, we are looking for applications that address these key elements of the Outcome relating to children and young people:

- Providing high-quality early years activities that reach families from a wider range of backgrounds
- Widening and improving opportunities for children and young people to take part in creative activities inside schools
- Widening and improving opportunities for children and young people to take part in creative activities outside schools
- Improving teaching for creativity in schools
- Supporting children and young people to develop their creative skills and potential
- Developing and improving pathways towards careers in the creative industries

## **Creative Communities**

***Villages, town and cities thrive through a collaborative approach to culture.***

- Working collaboratively through place-based partnerships to improve creative and cultural education for children and young people

## **Creative Country**

***England's cultural sector is innovative, collaborative and international.***

- Collaborating with other cultural organisations and/or with the commercial creative industries and/or with further and higher education, especially with a view to supporting innovation, research and development, new skills and the use of new technologies
- Giving more opportunities to people to start a professional career in the creative industries, especially those who are currently under-represented.

Where appropriate, applicants may wish to consider how their project can link up with our other support for children and young people to address this outcome, including:

- our network of Bridge Organisations
- our support for the development of Local Cultural Education Partnerships
- our music and cultural education programmes, including Music Education Hubs, In Harmony, and National Youth Music Organisations
- Youth Music
- Artsmark Award
- Creativity Exchange

## Investment Principles

We also expect successful applicants to use our Investment Principles as development tools to help them focus and track their journey of continuous improvement and help underpin their commitment to excellence. You can read more about our Investment Principles [here](#).

# How we support children, young people and learning

## Bridge Organisations

Bridge Organisations are a part of our National Portfolio, and build long term relationships between the creative, cultural and education sectors.

They do this by:

- acting as a first point of contact for schools, responding to their needs and securing their commitment to supporting arts organisations and artists
- identifying commissioning opportunities from local authorities, local businesses, trusts and foundations on behalf of National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) and other creative and cultural organisations, to enhance the creative offer for children and young people and families
- supporting the Arts Council to work across the sector to raise the quality of creative and cultural experiences for, with, and by children and young people
- supporting the [Quality Principles](#) and values that underpin the quality of work for children and young people
- supporting schools, arts organisations, local authorities and other partners to make the best use of [Artsmark](#) Award and individual arts accreditation for children and young people

- supporting schools and education settings to achieve Artsmark Award by:
  - Delivering Artsmark Development Training
  - Running Artsmark support sessions
  - Introducing leading local cultural organisations and creative practitioners , including Artsmark Partners
  - Establishing peer learning between Artsmark schools

If you want to apply to Project Grants for activity including children and young people, we encourage you to speak to your regional Bridge Organisation. They may be able to help you gain local information, key contacts and provide general guidance.

There are 10 Bridge Organisations across England. Find your closest Bridge Organisation [on our website](#).

### **Artsmark Award**

[Artsmark Award](#) is the creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. The award provides a clear framework for teachers to plan, develop and evaluate arts, culture and creativity across the curriculum. Schools are supported throughout their Artsmark journey by our network of local partners, providing advice, practical teaching resources and introductions to leading cultural organisations in their area.

Artsmark schools are encouraged to work in partnership with arts and cultural professionals and organisations to enhance their provision through projects, performances, CPD opportunities and on-going support. We welcome Project Grants applications which will contribute to schools' Artsmark journeys and increase impact on pupils through high quality artistic and cultural activity.

Bridge Organisations support and champion Artsmark delivery within their area to increase overall understanding of and engagement with the offer. Please contact your local Bridge Organisation [add link: <https://www.artsmark.org.uk>].

artscouncil.org.uk/children-and-young-people/bridge-organisations] for more information.

As Artsmark is funded by Arts Council England, your grant application can include costs relating to creative activity but we cannot provide Project Grants funding to cover school registration fees.

### **Local Cultural Education Partnerships**

Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) support children and young people to fulfil their creative potential and access high-quality cultural experiences where they live, where they go to school, and where they spend their free time.

Partners come together from across sectors, responding to local needs and interests, to drive a more joined-up cultural education offer, share resources, and improve the visibility of cultural education in their local area.

LCEPs are locally specific and can take many different forms. They may involve collaborative working with a wide range of partners, including from the cultural, education, higher education, youth, health, criminal justice, voluntary, and commercial creative sectors, as well as with local and combined authorities.

There are around 130 LCEPs across England. You can find your nearest LCEP on our [website](#).

LCEPs may wish to consider whether our ringfenced Place Partnership funds within Project Grants would be suited to their project. These funds are intended to support collaborative working in place that makes a step-change in cultural provision in a local area. They can be used to develop the capacity of LCEPs and strengthen creative and cultural opportunities for children and young people, especially in our priority places. Please see the Place partnership funds [information sheet](#) for further details.

### **Music Education Hubs**

[Music Education Hubs](#) are groups of organisations working together to create

a joined-up music education provision, responding to local need and fulfilling the objectives of the Hub as set out in the National Plan for Music Education.

The core roles of Music Education Hubs are to:

- ensure that every child aged 5 – 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-week class ensemble teaching programmes, with weekly tuition on the same instrument for ideally a year (but for a minimum of a term)
- provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage
- ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people
- develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area

Most Education Hubs also deliver against one or more of three extension roles:

- to offer Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum
- to provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes
- to provide access to large scale and/or high- quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues. This may include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/ carers and students

[The Importance of Music: The National Plan for Music Education](#) outlines the vision for Music Education Hubs. A refreshed national plan will be published in 2022.

## **In Harmony**

In Harmony is a national programme that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in deprived communities by using the power of community-based orchestral music-making.

Since April 2012 In Harmony has been funded jointly by the Department for Education and Arts Council England.

Find out more about In Harmony on our website [here](#).

## **National Youth Music Organisations**

National Youth Music Organisations develop talented young musicians across a range of musical genres. Through concerts, residencies, summer schools and workshops, National Youth Music Organisations play a major role in sustaining the excellence and diversity of the British music scene.

Find out more about National Youth Music Organisations on our website [here](#).

## **Youth Music**

Arts Council England funds Youth Music to provide grant funding for musicmaking projects in England.

Youth Music's vision is that life-changing music-making is available to all children and young people. Every year, Youth Music funds around 300 projects nationwide, supporting more than 80,000 children and young people to make music and develop their skills with a strong focus on reaching children and young people most in need.

Through National Lottery funding, we currently contribute £10 million a year to support these aims.

Find out more about Youth Music by [visiting their website](#).

## **Creativity Exchange**

Creativity Exchange is a space for school leaders, teachers, those working in cultural organisations, scientists, researchers and parents to share ideas about how to teach for creativity and develop young people's creativity at and beyond school.

This project has been developed in partnership by Arts Council England and Durham University to explore in practice the [Durham Commission's](#) recommendations about the importance of teaching for creativity in schools.

You can find out more about this by visiting the website [here](#).

## **Arts Award**

Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications that supports anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form – from fashion to digital art, pottery to poetry. It can be achieved at five levels: four qualifications and an introductory award. You may wish to consider whether Arts Award is appropriate for the children and young people you are working with, and the context of your work.

# **Further information**

The following organisations also provide development opportunities for children and young people and may be able to offer additional support or advice:

[National Skills Academy Creative and Cultural Skills](#)

[National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#)

[National Book Trust](#)

[One Dance UK](#)

[National Youth Theatre](#)

[Engage](#)

[National Youth Agency](#)

[The Cultural Learning Alliance](#)

## Access Support

We want everyone to be able to access our services or apply for funding. We're committed to being as accessible as possible, wherever we can. If you find it difficult to get advice or apply, we can help you. For more information, read our Access Support [information sheet](#), or visit the Access Support page on our [website](#).

## Contact us

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