

ARTS COUNCIL NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS

# Children, young people and learning

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our open-access programme for arts, museums and libraries projects.

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This information sheet relates to Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants. See [our website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this 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 arts and culture. By children and young people, we mean people aged 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 artistic 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
- 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
- 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 the wider public or arts community, rather than just the pupils and teachers of one school
- you must explain what this benefit to members of the public and/or artists will be
- you must demonstrate that activity is additional to the core taught curriculum
- you should tell us about the outcomes for children and young people

## 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

We cannot support projects related to the core or extension roles for [Music Education Hubs](#) (with one exception). These are already supported by Department for Education funding through Arts Council England. See the [Music Education Hubs](#) section of this information sheet for further details.

### 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 Higher Education Funding Council 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 artists and practitioners involved are experienced in providing high quality activities for children and young people and can demonstrate this track record.

### Designing the activity

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

### Outcomes

The project will provide clear outcomes for children and young people, their families, the wider community, and/or artists, and there are plans to ensure that these benefits can be sustained long term.

### 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, education, work-based learning or employment.

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

### Safeguarding children

Your project has a safeguarding policy in place to protect participants. Find more information from the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

## 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
- 2) Being authentic (providing 'real' experiences)
- 3) Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
- 4) Ensuring a positive, child-centred experience
- 5) Actively involving children and young people
- 6) Providing a sense of personal progression
- 7) Developing a sense of ownership and belonging

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

## How we support children, young people and learning

Our mission at the Arts Council is 'Great art and culture for everyone', outlined in our 10-year strategic framework, running from 2010-2020. At the heart of this we have five goals, all there to help us meet our mission.

**Goal 5** focuses on children and young people:

'Every child and young person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries'.

Achieving this goal will see that:

- more children and young people experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries
- more children and young people receive a high-quality cultural education in and out of school

- arts organisations, museums and libraries are delivering high-quality arts and cultural experiences for children and young people

To help us achieve goal 5, we invest in a network of [Bridge Organisations and support the development of Local Cultural Education Partnerships](#). As well as the Bridge Organisations, arts organisations within our National Portfolio, our music and [cultural education](#) programmes, including [Music Education Hubs](#), play a significant role in the delivery of great art and culture for children and young people.

## Bridge Organisations

Bridge Organisations are a part of our National Portfolio, and build long term relationships between the arts, 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
- supporting schools, arts organisations, local authorities and other partners to make the best use of [Arts Award](#) and [Artsmark](#)
- identifying commissioning opportunities from local authorities, local businesses, trusts and foundations on behalf of National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) and other arts organisations, to enhance the arts offer for children and young people and families
- supporting the Arts Council to work across the sector to raise the quality of arts 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.

If you want to apply to Project Grants for a project 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.

As Bridge Organisations are funded via our National Portfolio, Project Grants applications cannot include cash-matched funding from Bridge Organisations.

There is one Bridge Organisation in each Area of England (plus four associate organisations in London). Find your closest Bridge Organisation [on our website](#).

## Music Education Hubs

A [Music Education Hub](#) is a collection of organisations working in a local area to create joined up music education provision for children and young people, both in and out of school. We provide funding (from the Department for Education) to support these hubs to carry out their work.

The core role of Music Education Hubs is to build on existing music services 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 will 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.

Arts Council England also funds [Youth Music](#) to provide grant funding for music-

making projects in England.

## **Applying to Project Grants**

We can only support applications from Music Education hubs (or anyone working with a Hub) for projects that are additional to their core responsibilities. We cannot support activities related to extension roles with the exception of:

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

Applications that support this extension role should demonstrate how the proposed project is of larger scale or of higher quality than the hub is otherwise able to provide.

## **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](#).

## **Arts Award**

Arts Award is a national qualification for 5-25 year olds which supports creativity and leadership. If Arts Award is part of your activity for children and young people, it is a good quality indicator for the overall project.

Arts Award offers an effective framework for arts activities with young people, providing quality assurance, support and a qualification for participants. We welcome applications to Project Grants which use Arts Award as an accreditation framework where it brings additional value to the activity. Costs associated with Arts Award activity (including the costs of creating a portfolio or undertaking artistic experience, adviser training, information packs and moderations) are valid items in

Project Grants budgets.

[Arts Award](#) is managed by Trinity College London in association with the Arts Council working with Bridge organisations.

## Artsmark

[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.

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

## Further information

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

Cape UK have compiled a range of teaching resources for [Creative and Cultural Education](#) on behalf of the Arts Council

The [Cultural Education Data Portal](#) brings together data on children and young people at a local authority, regional and national level. Information on including

demographics, art, culture and education can help support your project planning.

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

[Creative Choices](#)

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

[Youth Dance England](#)

[National Youth Theatre](#)

[Youth Music](#)

[National Youth Agency](#)

[The Cultural Learning Alliance](#)

## Contact us

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