

Education Covid Catch Up Grant

Guidance Notes

Introduction

There has been significant impact on children and young people with education and opportunities being severely disrupted over the past year due to COVID. Children have missed out on half an academic year of face-to-face teaching, and opportunities for socialising and development. This grant scheme aims to support pupils to aid post COVID recovery in mental health and wellbeing and through this improve attendance

Aims

The aims of this project are to improve the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and to support those with attendance issues who are finding a return to face to face schooling difficult and as a result, in the long term, to improve educational outcomes of pupils

Specific outcomes

Outcomes to be achieved through the grants scheme are as follows:

- Successful transition for supported pupils back into schools following support from an attendance mentor
- Evidence that the outdoor areas have been completed and are being utilized by pupils to support mental wellbeing
- Positive pupil feedback (pupil voice) from each educational setting demonstrating decreased anxiety levels and increased well being
- Successful delivery of training programmes
- Reduced barriers to learning for pupils supported by the project

Organisations who have been successful in their grant application will be required to demonstrate the impact of the grant in their educational setting to Herefordshire Council in July 2022. This will include the requirement to complete an impact survey which will be provided with your offer letter. Where a grant has been awarded to improve an environment this may also include before and after photos.

How much can you apply for and how will bids be allocated?

Each educational setting may only apply for **one of the four grants** available. The maximum funding available for each grant can be found in the 'what can the grant be used for?' section of this guidance.

Funding will be allocated to applications which best demonstrate how they plan to meet the criteria below:

- Improve mental health and well-being of children and young people from Herefordshire
- Involve pupils and staff
- Demonstrate value for money
- Show how the grant will be spent in full by 1st April 2022
- Show innovation and creativity
- How leaders and managers plan to measure impact
- Improve attendance
- Improve communication and language

What can we apply for?

There are four grant streams:

- **Access to the Thrive programme- a therapeutic approach to help support children with their emotional and social development:** This grant can be used to purchase a number of Thrive training courses including: Leading Emotionally Healthy Primary or Secondary Schools, Early Years Licensed Practitioner, Childhood Early Practitioner or Adolescence Licensed Practitioner. Each organisation can apply for funding to train up to two people at a total cost overall cost of £1,650 per organisation.
- **Training to educational establishments for delivery of the forest schools programme. Participants will achieve the Level 3 Forest Schools Leader Qualification at the end of the course:** Each organisation can apply for funding to train up to two people at a cost of £775 plus VAT per person (where VAT can be reclaimed the grant will be at net cost)
- **Making Every Interaction Count: Connecting research, and evidence based Environment Rating Scale tools, with practice focused on improving communication and language outcomes and developing high quality learning environments.**
By the end of the course participants will: Have a deeper understanding about the importance of communication and language development, how young children learn language and what we can do to support that learning. Understand how we can use evidence-based tools to evaluate our practice and support quality improvement. Each organisation can apply for funding to train between 2 and 4 people
- **Grants of up to £3,000 to develop outdoor areas in schools and early years settings:** These should be natural areas and examples of what these might include are: Planting and growing areas, natural seating areas for intervention work, sensory gardens, forest school areas, wild areas, nature areas, safe enclosed spaces. This grant is not for play equipment.

Who can apply?

Applications will be accepted from Herefordshire maintained schools and academies and early years provisions, including child minders, based in Herefordshire.

What projects/activity are NOT eligible?

The grant will not fund projects outside of the Herefordshire County border, projects for the benefit of an individual, or any projects already underway or already completed.

How to apply

Please complete the form accompanying this guidance.

Applications must be received by Noon Friday 15th October 2021.

If you have a query regarding either Forest School or ECERS Grants please contact Emily Garner on 07792 880572 or at Emily.garner@herefordshire.gov.uk. If you have a query about either the Thrive or the outdoor spaces grants please contact Alison Naylor on 01432 261661 or at Alison.naylor@herefordshire.gov.uk

What happens next?

When we receive your application, we will acknowledge receipt. Applications will be assessed by an appraisal panel from Herefordshire Council. Based on your application, and any further information you may have been asked to supply, the Panel will make its recommendations to the Assistant Director of Education, Skills and Development in the Children and Families Directorate to inform a final decision. We will advise you of the decision to either:

- Offer a grant; or
- Offer a grant with some specific conditions; or
- An unsuccessful application

Indicative timescales?

This timeframe is indicative only. The Council reserves the right to change it at its discretion:

Stage	Date(s)/time
Issue of bid opportunity	w/c 13 th September 2021
Deadline for submission of bids	Noon on 15 th October 2021
Evaluation of bids	w/c 25 th October 2021

Stage	Date(s)/time
Notification of result	w/c 8 th November 2021
Expected date of award of Grant	w/c 30 th November 2021
Date grant must be spent in full by	1 st April 2022
Evaluation of impact including impact survey to be submitted	15 th July 2022

When can I start my project?

If we offer your group a grant, we will write to you setting out how much funding we are prepared to offer and detailing any specific conditions. If you are happy to accept the grant offer and associated conditions, you will need to return a signed copy.

You should keep all paperwork relating to your project. I.e. all invoices, receipts, cheque stubs and bank statements. Information relating to beneficiaries and progress towards the outputs of your project should also be kept.

How is the grant paid?

Successful applicants will receive funding as a one off payment after a successful grant application has been awarded by the panel.

Completion of Grant

When the grant period has ended, you will need to provide evidence of impact through an evaluation report/impact survey by 15th July 2022, which will evidence impact, usage and success. This may include feedback from pupils, photographs, data and any relevant case studies.

Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren't answered in this document.

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the Delegated Grants Team at Herefordshire Council on 01432 260753 or email: delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk