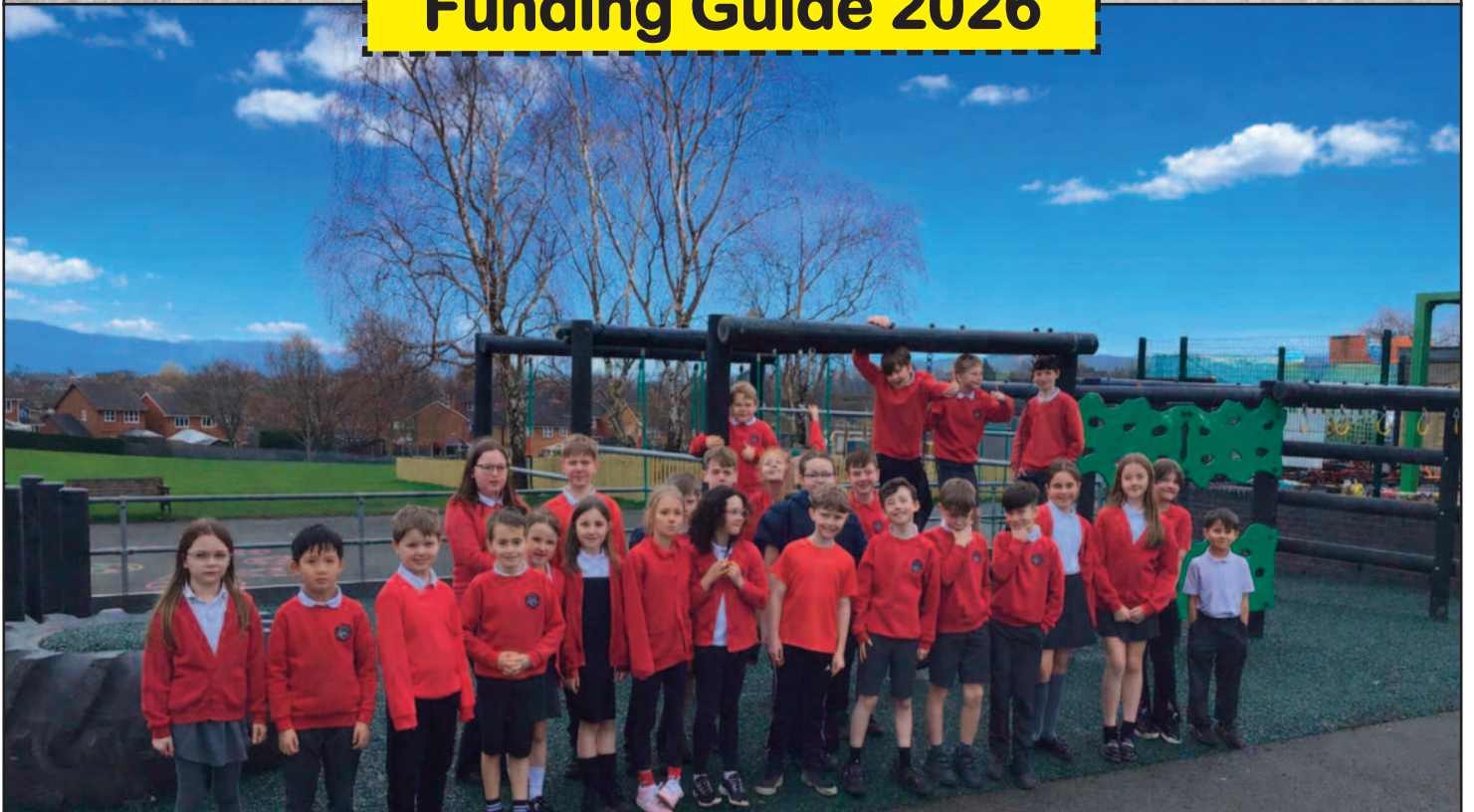




Specialists in Recycled Plastic & Timber Outdoor Play Equipment!!



Funding Guide 2026



PlayQuest Adventure Play Ltd

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Tips On Applying For Funding

Planning Is Very Important

Make sure you know what you want to achieve from the project and who will benefit from this. Grant applications can take time to be approved, so make sure you give yourself plenty of time.

Get A Fundraising Team Together

Put together a team for the fundraising. A good idea is to include children/pupils within this team, as getting them involved with the fundraising boosts engagement by giving them ownership of the project. Effective methods include sponsored activity circuits, talent shows, bake sales, and "design your play-ground" competitions. A visual, child-friendly progress tracker helps keep them motivated and focused on the goal.

Designate Responsibilities

Make a 'to-do' list and assign clear responsibilities to those within the Fundraising Team. This will help keep the project on track.

Highlight Why The Funding Is Needed

Make sure you describe your current problem in detail - and then explain how your proposed project will solve this problem.

Describe what will happen if the project does not go ahead, highlighting how the problem will worsen without funding.

Avoid stating that your organization 'needs money' but focus on the needs of the beneficiaries.

Make Sure Your Project Stands Out

Show the decision-makers what sets your grant application apart from others. This may make their decision easier to choose your project.

Calculate Your Budget

Confirm the overall cost of the playground project. Do you have any funding already in place - and if so, how much? How much extra do you need to apply for?

Write this down clearly so that the funders can see exactly where their money is to be spent.

Ask your playground equipment provider for an itemised quotation and a 3D visual of the proposed play area - as this helps funding bodies to see how their funding will help solve your problem.

At PlayQuest Adventure Play Ltd - we provide itemised, detailed quotations and 3D drawings FREE OF CHARGE to assist your funding application.



Tips On Applying For Funding

Select The Correct Funders

Be sure to check that your project meets with the eligibility criteria of the funding body - so that you do not waste your time applying for funding that you are not eligible for.

Management and Maintenance Plan

To assure funders that a new play area will be maintained, you can present a detailed 'Management and Maintenance Plan' that outlines who will look after the area, how often, and how it will be funded. Funders need evidence that the project is sustainable and that their investment will not go to waste due to neglect or safety issues.

Document a Maintenance Plan

Submit a written plan that includes:

Routine Inspections: *Outline daily or weekly visual inspections to check for litter, broken glass, or immediate safety hazards.*

Operational Inspections: *Include a schedule for quarterly checks by trained personnel (e.g., checking swing chains, tightening bolts, and examining timber for decay/rot).*

Annual Inspection: *Commit to an annual inspection by an accredited independent inspector to comply with safety standards.*

Safety Surface Maintenance: *Detail how you will maintain the surface to prevent accidents.*

Identify Responsible Parties (Who)

Contractors: *If using professionals, mention the company that will be conducting maintenance, (especially if they are the equipment supplier).*

Partnerships: *Highlight if the local council or school is involved in the long-term upkeep of the new play area and safety surfacing.*

Provide a Long-Term Financial Strategy (How)

Dedicated Budget: *Show that a portion of the yearly budget is allocated to maintenance, repairs, and inspections.*

Reserve Fund: *Explain that you have created a reserve fund or savings plan to cover long-term costs, such as replacing surfacing or repairing major equipment pieces.*

Fundraising Plan: *Outline how you will use future community events (bake sales, sponsorships) to generate ongoing upkeep funds.*

Emphasize Durable Design

Quality Materials: *Explain that you chose high-quality, durable materials (e.g. treated timber or recycled plastic) to reduce the cost and frequency of maintenance.*

Safety Surfacing: *Specify that the selected surfacing is durable and has a long lifespan.*

Confirm A Timeline

Set a timeline for when you want the new play area completed - as this will help funding organizations understand when you need the funding in place.

Remember to always check your local planning permission requirements before you apply for funding!



A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector

Primary School Funding

Website: <https://funding-grants.co.uk/education-grants/primary-school>

Information = Primary schools are able to apply for funds and grants to over 9000 different fund organisations and they can help you source the best places to apply. The funding grants information is updated in real time meaning the grant and fund lists are full of up to date information including eligibility criteria's, requirements to succeed in a bid, how to get the best out of your school and most importantly where the cash, money and finance are available at this present time. This is ideal for Playgrounds, Outdoor Classrooms, MUGA's, Pathways and other Sports Facilities.

Outdoor Gym Funding

Website: <https://funding-grants.co.uk/products/outdoor-gym-equipment>

Information = In schools and local communities outdoor gym equipment funding is often granted to help improve facilities and get more people involved in physical activities. There are lots of different funding bodies who give financial help to build new fitness stations and install exercise apparatus at schools and public spaces. The reason that these external facilities are popular is because they provide a fun place for kids to be active in PE lessons, break times and after school clubs.

Due to the versatility of outdoor facilities, they tend to be fairly popular with finance providers and will often be accepted for grants.

PTA+

Website: <https://www.pta.co.uk/fundraising/funding-sources/>

Information = An introduction and information about how and where to source funding for your next project.

PE and Sport Premium (England)

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools>

Information = An annual government allocation for primary schools to improve physical education and sports. For 2025–2026, primary schools receive a flat rate of £16,000 plus £10 per pupil. It can be used for activity trails, climbing frames, and other equipment that promotes physical activity.



A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector

The Nineveh Charitable Trust

Website: <https://funding-grants.co.uk/education-grants/primary-school>

Information = The Nineveh Charitable Trust provides grant-aid for UK-based projects that benefit the General Public. Education, access and preservation of the countryside are common themes, but they also welcome creative new approaches that meet their charitable objectives.

School Capital Funding

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding>

Information = The Department for Education (DfE) allocates capital funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. School condition funding is for:
 local authorities and local-authority-maintained schools (including maintained nursery schools),
 local voluntary-aided bodies and voluntary-aided schools,
 academies and large multi-academy trusts (MATs), sixth-form colleges,
 non-maintained special schools and special post-16 institutions with eligible students.

FundEd

Website: <https://funded.org.uk/grants/>

Information = An introduction to various different grant bodies on their website as well as information as to how to potentially increase income.

The Earnest Cook Trust

Website: <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/everything-outdoors/outdoor-essentials-grant/>

Information = The Outdoor Essentials Grant is an award to UK state-funded schools to remove barriers and enable pupils to connect to nature and learn outdoors. This grant is available to schools to enhance 'nature on the doorstep' through improvements to school grounds or areas within their local community. The ambition is to see projects that provide for Outdoor Learning and improvements to biodiversity which could include wildflower meadows, creation of raised beds, allotment gardens, ponds, woodland areas or sensory gardens.

The grant can also be used for the purchase of Outdoor Learning resources that engage young people with the environment such as bug hotels, bird boxes and mini-beast investigation kits.



A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector, Charities, Community Action Groups and Local Authorities

Sport England

Website: <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/movement-fund>

Information = Their main goal is getting people more active and their grants are for projects that match this goal.

Sport Scotland

Website: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/funding/sport-facilities-fund>

Information = The Sport Facilities Fund (SFF) supports capital projects that help to create or improve places where people take part in sport and physical activity.

They want to support projects that provide more opportunities for people to get involved in and participate in sport & physical activity. Prioritisation will be given to projects that deliver the greatest impact on their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion objectives.

Sport Wales

Website: <https://sport.wales/funding>

Information = They are the national organisation responsible for funding and supporting sport and physical activity in Wales. They have a clear vision to create an active nation where everyone can have a lifetime enjoyment of sport.

Groundwork

Website: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

Information = They are managing a number of grant schemes on the behalf of businesses, public sector and third sector partners to help make your project a reality.

Their experienced grant management teams help to support thousands of projects every year through our grant programmes



A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector, Charities, Community Action Groups and Local Authorities

ASDA Foundation

Website: <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/local-community-spaces-fund/>

Information = Their funding is focused on supporting smaller, grassroots-led organisations making a positive impact at the heart of local communities throughout the UK.

Tesco Stronger Starts

Website: <https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/>

Information = Tesco Stronger Starts invites schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations supporting children and young people to apply for up to £1,500 for causes that improve access to healthy, nutritious food. From enhancing school provision to supporting local community services, they welcome applications that use healthy food that supports physical and mental health of children and young people across the UK.

Morrisons Foundation

Website: <https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com/>

Information = The Morrisons Foundation supports registered charities that make a positive difference in local communities across England, Scotland and Wales.

Co-op Local Community Fund

Website: <https://causes.coop.co.uk/>

Information = The Local Community Fund supports projects in their members' communities that provide access to opportunities and resources for people to thrive.

Co-op Members can choose the local cause they want to support through their membership.



**A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector,
Charities, Community Action Groups and Local Authorities**

HS2 Community Fund

Website: <https://hs2funds.org.uk/home/community-environment-fund/>

Information = The Community and Environment Fund has been created to add benefit to communities along the route that are disrupted by the construction of HS2 from London to West Midlands.

BBC Children In Need

Website: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/grants/>

Information = They fund projects and organisations across the UK that address the greatest needs of vulnerable children and young people.

The National Lottery Community Fund

Website: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>

Information = They fund community projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future. The focus is on supporting people facing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.

BIFFA Award

Website: <https://www.biffa-award.org/recreation/>

Information = Examples of costs that can be funded through this theme include playgrounds, boardwalks, skateparks, woodland walks, nature trails and outdoor gyms.
Your organisation must be fully constituted, charitable or not-for-profit with no share capital.
The project must be within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site.

Enovert Community Trust

Website: <https://www.enovert.co.uk/enovert-community-trust/funding/>

Information = You don't need to be a charity, but any surplus you make must be used to further your organisation's objects. Any projects must be located within 10 miles of a landfill site or waste management facility operated by Enovert Management Limited in Billingham, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Colchester, Gloucester, Kingswinford, Lydney, Middlesbrough, Southend-On-Sea, Walsall, or Weston-super-Mare.



**A selection of funding sources for The Education Sector,
Charities, Community Action Groups and Local Authorities**

Veolia Environmental Trust

Website: <https://www.veoliatrust.org/funding/>

Information = They award grants towards projects that improve community facilities in the vicinity of landfills sites to improve their local environment and quality of life.

FCC Community Action Fund

Website: <https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>

Information = The FCC Community Action Fund provides grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 to not-for-profit organisations for amenity projects sited within 10 miles of an eligible FCC Environment waste facility.

SUEZ Communities Fund

Website: <https://www.suez.co.uk/en-gb/our-offering/communities-and-individuals/giving-something-back/suez-communities-fund>

Information = SUEZ Communities Fund's programmes are designed to improve a broad range of publicly accessible amenities which benefit a wide cross section of the community. Whether improving a local play area or a nationally significant historic building, each project has the potential to transform the community in which it is based.

YAPP Charitable Trust

Website: <https://yappcharitabletrust.org.uk/what-we-fund/>

Information = They offer grants to registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £50,000 who work with priority groups including Children and young people, elderly people, people with physical impairments, learning difficulties or mental health challenges, and people who are educationally disadvantaged (whether adults or children).

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund

Website: <https://www.bailythomas.org.uk/>

Information = The fund provides funding to registered charities working with children or adults with severe learning difficulties and Autism.



Beginning The Application Process

Provide Key Details About Your Organisation

Make a list of the following details to use for every application that you make:

The name & address of the organisation.

Telephone number.

Organisation website.

Organisation type (i.e. Charity, School, etc).

Organisation insurance information.

Organisation banking information.

Organisation's recent accounts.

Application Process Checklist

- 1 - Give the name of the project the application is for.
- 2 - Give the names of the contacts for the application - the name of the person leading the application process, and of any additional people that may be included.
- 3 - Outline in detail what the project is that you are requesting the funding for - and make sure to include the timescales that you are aiming to achieve this in.
- 4 - Confirm in as much detail as possible why the project is needed - and provide evidence of this need if you can.
- 5 - Confirm who will benefit from this funded project - and how this project will benefit them.
- 6 - Give the funding body a detailed breakdown of the costs of the project - including the play equipment, safer surfacing and installation costs. Confirm what funds you have to put toward the final project cost, and what funding you are requesting to make up the total project cost.
- 7 - Confirm from which company you have received your project costs from (i.e. PlayQuest).

Remember to make sure all of the forms are completed correctly and any additionally required documents/evidence are included before submitting your application.

PlayQuest Adventure Play Ltd Can Help You!

At PlayQuest Adventure Play Ltd we can assist you with your funding applications by:

- A** - Conducting a site survey of your existing / new play area Free Of Charge.
- B** - Discussing your individual play area requirements with you, and advising which of our products and services will be best suited to your unique requirements.
- C** - Discussing safer surfacing options (if required) and the benefits of these individual types of surfacing (i.e. longevity, ease of maintenance, cost, etc).
- D** - Offering our expert knowledge on all outdoor play area options available to you - including making sure that the play equipment selected is suitable for the age range of the user it is intended for.
- E** - Providing a detailed quotation with prices for each piece of play equipment, any safety surfacings, delivery and installation costs, and any ancillaries wanted as part of the project.
- F** - Providing 3D CAD images of the proposed play equipment, safety surfaces, etc.
- G** - Providing confirmation of our guarantees and warranties if the funding bodies require this.
- H** - Providing the funding bodies with any other additional information they may require.



Additional Fundraising Ideas For Schools & Children

Additional Fundraising Ideas

Art Attack – *Run an art competition for pupils to create artwork based around a fun theme.*

Assault Course – *Charge an entrance fee.*

Car wash – *Get the sponges out and get the whole school involved in washing parents' cars.*

Coin trail – *Ask every pupil to bring in spare change, lay the coins out in a trail and see how far around the school you can get.*

Disney day – *Ask pupils to make a donation to dress up as their favourite Disney character for the day.*

Disco – *Sell tickets and encourage your pupils to get their dancing shoes on.*

Eco-day – *Dress green and do good deeds for the day, like litter picking and recycling rubbish.*

Easter egg decorating – *Ask pupils to paint and decorate eggs for parents to purchase.*

Face painting – *Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs and children's parties.*

Football tournament – *Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.*

Games day – *Let pupils bring in toys and games to play with on the last day of term and ask for a donation in return.*

Game show – *Host mock versions of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? or The Weakest Link. Otherwise adapt board games for big audiences and get prizes donated.*

Horse Racing – *Pupils (or teachers) can dress as horses. Charge on entry or get sponsorship.*

Halloween party – *Another excuse to dress up and party. Charge entrance fees and raise money trick or treating.*

Inflatables – *Put a bounce into your summer fete with a bouncy castle, inflatable fly wall, boxing ring or even a gladiator court.*

Jokes – *Ask each pupil to bring in their favourite joke and a £1 or £2 donation and hold a class or assembly dedicated to joke telling.*

Karaoke – *Arrange your own Pop Idol contest.*

Litter picking – *People will be very willing to pay you if you're cleaning up a local park, beach or playground. This is a way to help your local community while raising money, so everyone's a winner.*

Medieval day – *Themed day of medieval food and entertainment.*

Magic show – *Invite a magician to the school or ask budding magicians in your school to get together and hold a magic show.*



Additional Fundraising Ideas For Schools & Children

Additional Fundraising Ideas

Non-uniform day – *Tried, tested, and loved by pupils everywhere! Ask pupils to pay a set donation (£1 or £2 each) to wear their own clothes to school.*

Olympic-themed fun day – *Get excited about the Olympics by holding your own version – you could even split pupils into teams and give them names of countries.*

Pyjama day – *Ideal for nurseries and younger pupils but fun for everyone, ask pupils to come to school in their favourite pyjamas with a donation in hand.*

Quizzes – *This works well run by teacher for pupils, by older pupils for younger classes, or even pupils setting quizzes for parents after school. Source prizes from local business and get quizzing.*

Quiet Time – *Hold a sponsored silence.*

Readathon – *A sponsored reading event run in primary and secondary schools across the UK, encouraging children to read for pleasure.*

Rugby tournament – *Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.*

Sponge throw – *Ask pupils to donate in return for getting to launch soapy sponges at teachers. Best done on a sunny day.*

Talent contest – *Hold a talent contest for pupils to showcase their skills. You could make it a 'TV show style' by nominating judges to pick the winners.*

Treasure hunt – *Put together a treasure hunt, split pupils into pairs or teams and let the detective work begin. Ask a local business to donate a prize for the winning pair/team and set a suggested donation amount for entering.*

Uniform day for teachers – *A twist on non-uniform day.*

Unwanted presents – *Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts. Ask pupils to donate a portion of their takings.*

Vegetarian dinner party – *Children could seek sponsorship for each type of vegetable they eat. Vegetables could even be grown at school.*

Volleyball tournament – *Great for the summer, charge on entry.*

World cultures day – *Get pupils to dress up for the day, give each class a different country to base their theme on.*

Xmas hampers – *Get pupils to make and sell Xmas hampers. Include food, drink, toys and gifts.*

X marks the spot – *Host a pirate party. Include treasure maps, games and refreshments.*

Yoga – *Get your pupils involved in a fun keep fit class.*

Zumbathon – *A fun way to promote fitness.*



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