

Playground Grants Made Simple

Applying for playground funding can feel daunting, especially when time is limited and grant criteria feel unclear. This guide has been created specifically for schools, written in clear, practical language to help teachers, School Business Managers and senior leaders feel confident when – for playground grants. Whether you are exploring funding for the first time or preparing an application right now, this resource will walk you through each stage and help you avoid common mistakes.



PLAYGROUND IMAGINEERING

Step 1 Understand What You Need Funding For:

Before searching for grants, it's important to clearly define your playground needs.

Ask yourself:

- Is the current playground unsafe or outdated?
- Are certain areas inaccessible or unsuitable for some pupils?
- Are you looking to refresh, extend or completely replace your playground?

Tip: Funders respond well to clear, specific needs rather than vague improvement plans.

Step 2 Identify Suitable Playground Grants:

Playground funding may be available from:

- Charitable trusts and foundations
- Local councils or community funds
- National grant providers
- PTAs or matched-funding schemes

When researching grants, check:

- Who is eligible to apply (school, trust, PTA)
- Typical funding amounts
- Application deadlines
- What the funding can be used for

Step 3 Gather Evidence to Support Your Application:

Strong evidence can significantly improve your chances of success. Useful evidence includes:

- Photos of your current playground
- Notes from safety inspections or risk assessments
- Pupil voice feedback
- Staff consultation comments
- Maintenance records or reports

Tip: Evidence should clearly show why the funding is needed and who will benefit.

Step 4 Link Your Playground to Learning & Wellbeing:

Funders want to know the difference their money will make.

Consider how your playground will support:

- Physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Social skills and teamwork
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Curriculum learning through outdoor play

Tip: Use real examples where possible, especially relating to your pupils.

Step 5 Create a Clear and Realistic Budget:

Most funders will ask for an outline of costs.

Your budget should:

- Be realistic and achievable
- Clearly show what funding will be used for
- Match the aims described in your application

Tip: Avoid overcomplicating figures — clarity is more important than detail.

Step 6 Gather Evidence to Support Your Application:

Strong evidence can significantly improve your chances of success. Useful evidence includes:

- Photos of your current playground
- Notes from safety inspections or risk assessments
- Pupil voice feedback
- Staff consultation comments
- Maintenance records or reports

Tip: Evidence should clearly show why the funding is needed and who will benefit.

Playground Grant Application Checklist

Use this checklist to make sure you're fully prepared before applying:

Planning & Preparation

- We have identified clear playground needs
- We know who is eligible to apply
- We understand the funder's priorities

Evidence & Consultation

- We have photos of our current playground
- We have completed a playground risk assessment
- We have gathered pupil voice feedback
- We have consulted staff where appropriate

Application Content

- We have explained how pupils will benefit
- We have linked the project to wellbeing, inclusion or learning
- We have outlined clear and realistic costs
- We have checked spelling and clarity

Final Checks

- All required documents are attached
- Deadlines have been met
- A copy has been saved for school records