

Culture Mile School Visits Fund

Progress report for the financial year 2018/19

About the Culture Mile School Visits Fund

The Schools Visits Fund was launched in November 2015 to help schools in disadvantaged areas of London make visits to the 21 cultural venues supported by the City of London Corporation, all of which are Culture Mile Learning partners. From April 2018 eligibility was widened to include not-for-profit educational organisations that work with school-age children (age 4–18) to enable even more children to benefit from the fund.

Eligibility criteria:

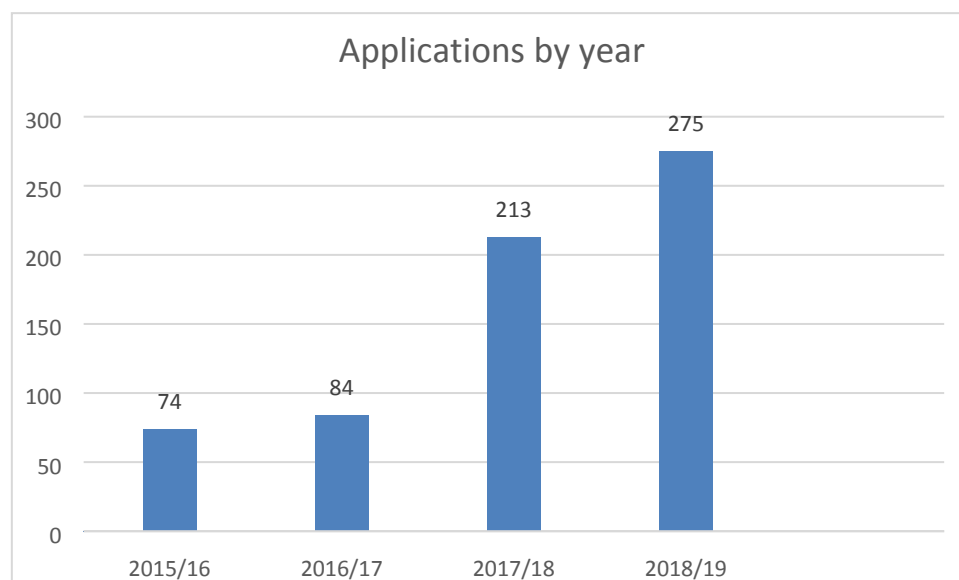
- Schools or organisations must be in Greater London (within the M25)
- At least 35% of pupils at the school must be eligible for Pupil Premium funding (to reflect the London average of 35%). Special schools do not need to meet this requirement
- Educational organisations are required to provide a supporting statement about the organisation's purpose and detailing how the fund will be used to enable a visit for school-age children who face barriers to participating in cultural activities

Performance of the fund since November 2015 (as of 31 March 2019)

- There have been 659 successful applications to the fund, which have benefitted 24,032 pupils. This easily exceeds the target set on establishing the fund to receive 100 successful applications per year
- The fund has enabled 388 different schools to make visits to all 21 cultural venues
- The average Pupil Premium rate of schools applying to the fund is 50%
- Schools from all London boroughs have made applications to the fund

Applications in 2018/19

There were a total of 275 successful applications to the fund in the financial year 2018/19, set to benefit 12,976 pupils. £52,737 of funding was committed during this period.



NB: The fund began in November 2015, therefore 2015/16 figures are not for a full financial year.

Average Pupil Premium rate

The average rate of Pupil Premium for all applications in 2018/19 was 49%.

The eligibility criteria for the percentage of pupils receiving Pupil Premium was raised from 30% to 35% in April 2018 to reflect the London average of 35%. The national average is 26%.

School types

	Local authority	Academy	Free
Applications	213	68	3
	Primary	Secondary	Special
Applications	219	39	4

Organisation types

	Charity	Youth group	Supplementary	Other
Applications	12	1	1	1

There have been fifteen applications from non-school educational organisations.

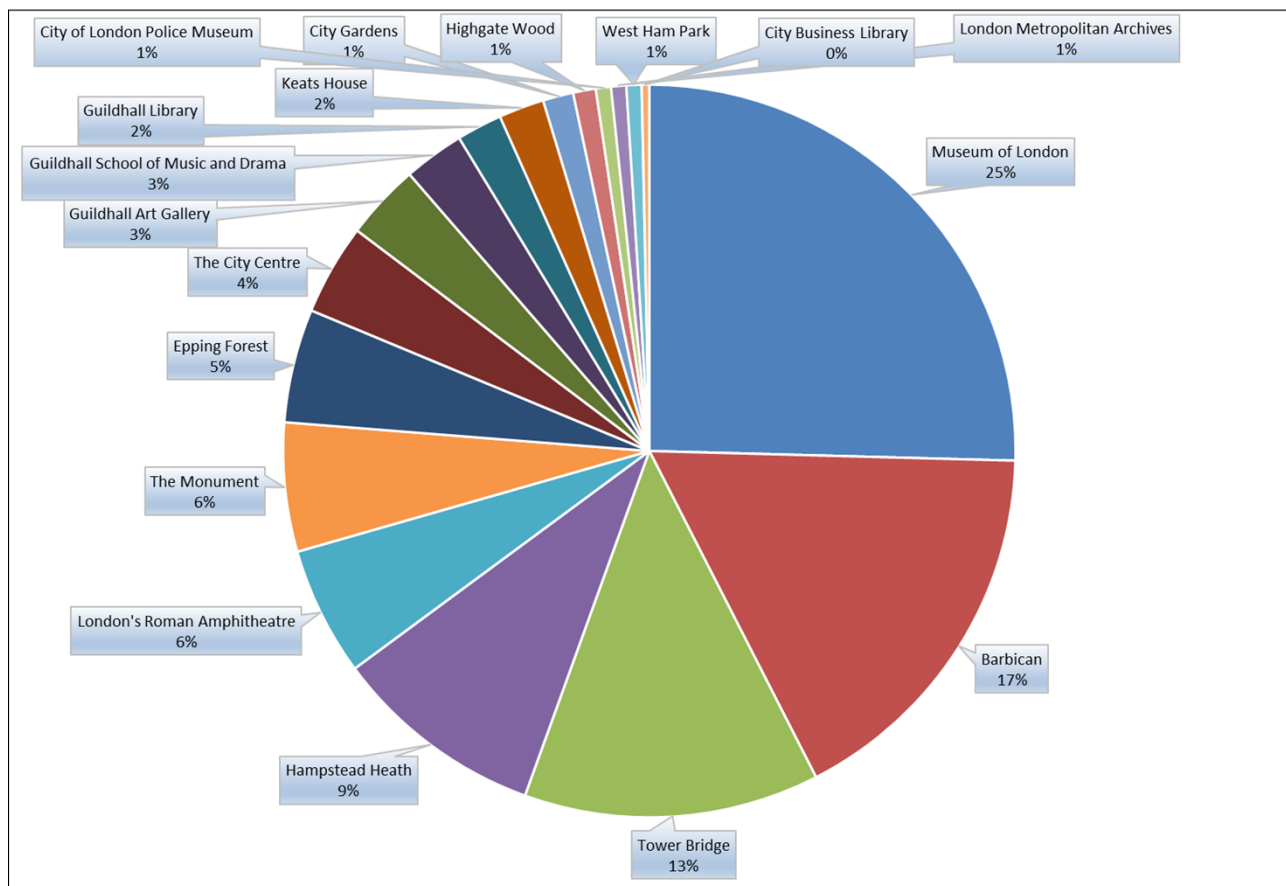
Applications by venue 2018/19

The table below shows the total number of times each venue has been stated on the original application form. Schools may choose up to three venues to visit in one trip – they often list multiple venues and then only complete a single venue visit.

Venue	Applications
Museum of London	79
Barbican	47
Hampstead Heath	44
Tower Bridge	40
Museum of London Docklands	27
The Monument	20
Epping Forest	13
The City Centre	13
Keats House	10
London Metropolitan Archives	10
Guildhall Art Gallery	8
The Charterhouse	8
City of London Police Museum	6
City Gardens	5
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	5
Highgate Wood	5
West Ham Park	5
Guildhall Library	4
Barbican Library	2
City Business Library	2
London's Roman Amphitheatre*	0

*Post-visit evaluation forms indicate there were several trips to the Amphitheatre. It is likely that applicants ticked 'Museum of London' only for joint sessions which include a visit to the Museum and the Amphitheatre

Applications by venue 2018/19



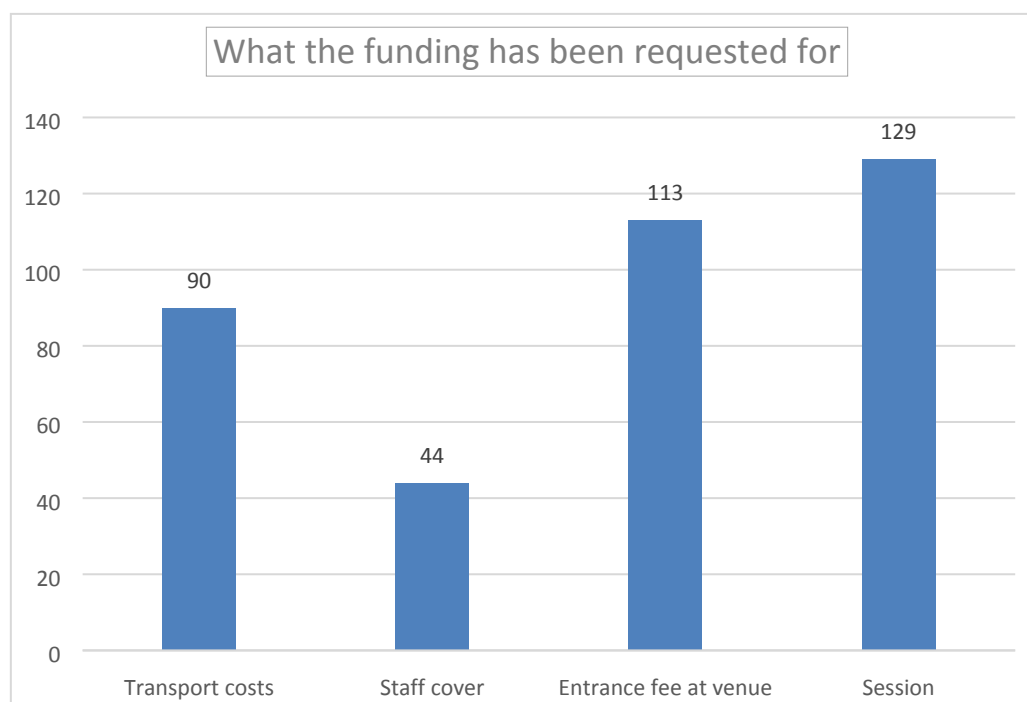
Breakdown of applications by London borough 2018/19

Borough	2018/19	Total since fund began in 2015
Hackney	40	55
Camden	33	43
Bexley	22	22
Tower Hamlets	19	32
Barnet	15	30
Islington	15	23
Lambeth	15	24
Westminster	14	26
Enfield	11	24
Lewisham	10	14
Newham	10	15
Southwark	9	20
Haringey	7	23
Waltham Forest	7	14
Barking and Dagenham	6	9
Greenwich	4	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	9
Other*	2	2
Kensington and Chelsea	3	7
Redbridge	3	4
Wandsworth	3	6

Ealing	2	3
Merton	2	3
Brent	2	8
Harrow	1	2
Hillingdon	1	2
Hounslow	1	1
Croydon	1	2
Havering	1	3
Richmond	0	1
Kingston Upon Thames	0	1
Sutton	0	1
Croydon	0	1
City	0	4

*Other indicates where an applicant postcode may fall just outside a London borough but inside the M25 and has therefore been accepted.

Use of the fund



NB Applicants may select more than one category.

Summary of online evaluation

Each teacher or group leader is asked to complete an online evaluation form after their group's visit. A summary of findings is provided below, including examples of feedback.

Ease of applying to the fund	
Application process	91% of teachers found this very easy or easy
Communication with the School Visits Fund Administrator	90% rated this as excellent or good
Website – ease of use	86% rated this as excellent or good
Website – information provided	88% rated this as excellent or good
Venue satisfaction	98% would visit their chosen venue again

How did your pupils benefit from this trip?	
The visit helped develop pupils' skills (eg creative, digital, interpersonal, problem-solving)	91% strongly agreed or agreed
<p>'The children have never had this opportunity before to experience live music in the form of an orchestra and have very little experience with classical music. They may never have this opportunity again because of their home situations. They learnt about different instruments and were able to take part by singing along with the orchestra. It widened their eyes to opportunities they may be able to receive in secondary school (learning to play an instrument).'</p> <p>Broadford Primary School – visited Barbican</p>	
<p>'Students worked in small groups to investigate the causes of changes in species diversity and ground coverage along a transect. The students had to use a range of equipment including soil temperature probes, quadrats and light meters to measure their findings. Back at school the students needed to collate their results and draw conclusions, explaining their method and critiquing them. They made posters summarizing their findings and conclusions. This tested their investigative and analytical skills.'</p> <p>Kelmscott School – visited Epping Forest</p>	
The visit increased pupils' confidence and motivation	92% strongly agreed or agreed
<p>'They watched a theatre performance of the Vikings which engaged them with the topic. The performance was child friendly and humorous which made it extremely memorable. Children who weren't confident in their knowledge could later recall things they had seen.'</p> <p>Grafton Primary School – visited Museum of London</p>	
<p>'We did a project about London and were able to see it all in real. We also learnt about engineering and so were able to learn how the bridge works. The pupils had to be responsible on the buses and be motivated to climb 312 steps to the top of The Monument!'</p> <p>Vishnitz Girls School – visited Tower Bridge/The Monument</p>	

Pupils learnt something new as a result of the visit	100% strongly agreed or agreed
<p>‘The children had the most amazing experience, learnt a lot and enjoyed the learning. Being present where the Great Fire started was an incredible experience and children were able to gain first-hand experience with the area where the fire started – seeing the museum with artefacts also increased their knowledge. They will not forget the visit in a hurry.’</p> <p>Fleecefield Primary School – visited The Monument/Museum of London</p>	
<p>‘Every student took something away from it. The Museum of London related to several of our topics through the school year so far. Our main purpose was to explore artefacts and first-hand accounts from the Victorian and Anglo-Saxon eras. They got to visit a venue that links so directly to the history units we have been covering this year.’</p> <p>Goldbeaters Primary School – visited Museum of London</p>	
<p>How valuable was the School Visits Fund in helping you overcome barriers that your school faces when conducting school trips?</p>	
<p>‘We have a lot of parents who often can't afford to pay for trips, so getting the funding was essential. It enabled us to book and attend the trip without worrying about the parents not being able to pay.’</p> <p>North Harringay Primary School – visited Hampstead Heath</p>	
<p>‘I can't stress enough how important financial support provided for our children is. They have not had many opportunities to explore London due to financial constraints and the school needs support to be able to show the community what is out there, what potential careers the children could consider to pursue in the future.’</p> <p>Westbridge Primary School – visited Tower Bridge</p>	
<p>‘We are currently only able to offer trips that are free as our budget is not stretching to pay for trips for the children. Without the Culture Mile Schools Visits Fund supporting us we would not have been able to take the children to the Monument.’</p> <p>George Eliot Primary School – visited The Monument</p>	

'Excellent. Travel from Edmonton to the centre of town is always logistically tough and tiring for the children. The funding allowed us to just focus on the visit itself.'

Starks Field Primary School – visited London Metropolitan Archives

'It allowed our pupils to explore topics in greater depth while enjoying each other's company outside the school walls. It showed the children the world out there and the opportunities presented for them. Some of them mentioned they will come with their families for a walk in the future to show their mums and dads what they learned.'

Westbridge Primary School – visited Tower Bridge

Case studies

The four case studies below have been chosen as they represent examples of how the School Visits Fund has helped primary and secondary school pupils to experience the cross-curricular benefits of cultural learning.

Case study 1	Barbican Box
Name	Plashet School
Type	Secondary
Borough	Newham
Pupil Premium	53%
Group details	Year 8, 9 and 10 (age 12–15)
Venue	Barbican
Grant provided	£300 session fee
Objectives	‘For students to explore musical composition in a format that was new and relevant to them. Working with a renowned Grime artist has really inspired them and helped them to gain confidence and step outside of their comfort zone.’
How did your pupils benefit from this trip?	‘They are gaining confidence in their musical ability and are beginning to share their ideas with each other. They are working in mixed aged groups so the inspiration and skill is trickling down to the younger students. They have been able to work closely with industry professionals. They are learning how to use cutting edge technology.’
How valuable was the School Visits Fund in helping you overcome barriers that your school faces when conducting school trips?	‘We wouldn't have been able to do this project without it as we can't afford to spend £300 on a project, no matter how good it sounds.’

Case study 2	Languages of London Festival
Name	The Rainbow Club (Action For Refugees In Lewisham – AFRIL)
Type	Charity
Borough	Lewisham
Pupil Premium	n/a. This is a supplementary school for refugee and asylum-seeker primary school-age children
Group details	Ages 5– 11
Venue	Museum of London Docklands
Grant provided	£300 transport costs
Objectives	‘Our work includes visits to sites in London as educational and cultural experiences. This trip’s objective was to be involved in the Languages of London Festival. This provided the students with cultural opportunities during the half-term break.’
How did your pupils benefit from this trip?	‘Our pupils face significant social, cultural and language barriers in access to mainstream education. Trips like these are successful in overcoming these barriers, improving educational attainment and pupils’ confidence. This was an opportunity to do something they would not have been able to afford, a chance to use their creativity, and a chance to work with their parents.’
How valuable was the School Visits Fund in helping you overcome barriers that your school faces when conducting school trips?	‘Very valuable. Financial constraints mean often these spaces remain otherwise inaccessible to our pupils and their families who are among the most impoverished in London. Our visit to Museum of London Docklands offered an important but rare educational and cultural opportunity for our pupils. It also makes us more likely to visit all the other venues.’

Case study 3	Wellbeing on Hampstead Heath
Name	Give Youth a Break
Type	Charity
Borough	Barnet
Pupil Premium	n/a
Group details	Ages 5–11
Venue	Hampstead Heath
Grant provided	£300 transport costs
Objectives	‘To help disadvantaged children in the area emotionally and mentally through the beauty of nature. Our focus is on assisting those who might be underachievers in school work and could excel or be developed in other areas, and children coming from low income/big families where they can form healthy relationships with the caring volunteers and delight in a positive social setting to garner the strength to overcome their daily challenges.’
How did your pupils benefit from this trip?	‘These young people do not have the opportunity to go and discover their own city themselves. They received a lot of fresh air, they enjoyed the day out, made new friends and learned a lot about nature and the environment. The long-term outcome of this trip would be to improve their confidence and emotional wellbeing, in order to enable them to develop into healthy, stable adults who will be contributing members of society.’
How valuable was the School Visits Fund in helping you overcome barriers that your school faces when conducting school trips?	‘Amazing, these children would not have this opportunity to go together and explore their surroundings due to financial difficulties. The fund staff helped us get the trip off the ground by providing guidance through the funding process.’

Case study 4	Monument to the Great Fire
Name	Brecknock Primary School
Type	Primary
Borough	Camden
Pupil Premium	53%
Group details	Year 2
Venue	The Monument
Grant provided	£150 Transport and entrance fees
Objectives	‘The visit was a key part of our 'London Then and Now' History topic at Key Stage 1. The topic covers the Great Fire of London and rebuilding the area following it. Most of our children had never been across the river or seen this area of London. For the children to experience a trip into central London was wonderful.’
How did your pupils benefit from this trip?	‘They developed a better understanding of the Great Fire of London. Being able to place it in context was really useful. The view from the top of The Monument assisted them in being able to place exactly how important the river was in the evacuation from the fire zone.’
How valuable was the School Visits Fund in helping you overcome barriers that your school faces when conducting school trips?	‘It was essential. Our school has a high proportion of Pupil Premium pupils, many of whom have English as an additional language. Many of our families face financial difficulties and such trips would be difficult for them to undertake independently. Being able to do this trip without having to ask for financial support from families made it accessible to everyone. Not having to cover the cost of the trip from an ever-dwindling school budget allowed us to keep this essential outdoor learning experience as part of our topic.’