



City Premium Grant Bid Development Guidance

February 2024

Background Information

What is the City Premium Grant and why does it exist?

The 'City Premium Grant' is an annual grant available to the City Corporation's sponsored academies, and additional special grants that support strategic and partnership projects across the City Corporation 'Family of Schools'. Its purpose is to facilitate activities which will help schools deliver against the aims of the City Corporation's education and learning strategies. Areas of particular focus for the City Corporation are:

- Developing pupils' Fusion Skills (e.g. oral communication, collaboration, resilience, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking).
- Improving teaching and learning practices.
- Driving equality of opportunity by promoting social mobility, good health, and wellbeing.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to experience the world of work.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to access culture, and for teachers to use culture and creativity as tools in teaching and learning.

Decisions on the grant are delegated to the City Corporation's Education Board with operational responsibility owned by the City Corporation's Education Strategy Unit (ESU).

What can the City Premium Grant be used for?

The City Premium Grant is provided to support '**additionality**' to the education offer. This means it should support programmes, resources or activities which are *additional* to those already provided under regular day-to-day circumstances. Some examples of **qualifying** proposals might be:

- ✓ Bespoke projects for targeted groups of pupils
- ✓ Trips and visits
- ✓ Continued Professional Development (CPD) for teachers
- ✓ *Additional* staffing for revision sessions
- ✓ *Additional* arts and cultural provisions
- ✓ Offers to broaden the curriculum
- ✓ Resources to enrich aspects of the curriculum

City Premium Grant funds *cannot* be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases or routine school staffing. Some examples of **non-qualifying** proposals might be:

- ✗ Building works
- ✗ Purchases of computer hardware
- ✗ Software and telephony costs
- ✗ Staffing
- ✗ Basic stationary such as paper and pens
- ✗ School meals

How is the City Premium Grant allocated?

The City Premium Grant is divided into three separate funding streams:

1: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant

This annual grant is available to City Corporation sponsored academies. This grant can be used freely to support additionality that addresses the particular needs or ambitions of your individual school.

2: Partnerships Grant

This annual grant is available to all schools within the City Corporation's Family of Schools. It is designed to encourage collaboration and richer dialogue between schools, and should result in co-designed additionality that supports issues, needs, priorities, subjects, skills, learning phases, projects, curriculum goals, staff development goals etc, that are shared by two or more schools. Bids and resulting activity **must** be developed in partnership with at least one other school from the Family of Schools. At least one non-independent school should be included in any partnership.

3: Strategic Grant

This annual grant is available to all schools within the City Corporation's Family of Schools. It can be used to help deliver additionality within your school, but bids and resulting activity **must** relate to a designated strategic theme, and **must** be developed in partnership with at least one other school from the Family of Schools. Again, this is to promote richer collaboration and improved dialogue across the Family of Schools. At least one non-independent school should be included in any partnership.

For the 2024/2025 academic year, any project or activity proposed for the Strategic Grant **must** follow at least one of the following strategic themes:

- **Mental Health & Wellbeing** - Providing guidance, support, and enrichment to help improve the mental health and wellbeing of learners and/or school staff. This has been an area of growing significance in recent years and evidence continues to suggest that the pandemic amplified existing problems.
- **Environmental & Outdoor Learning** – Enriching learner relationships with the natural environment, and/or improving learner awareness of environmental challenges (e.g. climate change, waste management, pollution, habitat loss). Exposure to the natural environment can positively impact mental health and wellbeing and the City Corporation is passionate about supporting activity that will help learners benefit from nature, and help nature benefit from learners.
- **Employability** – Improving the future career prospects of learners by helping them develop employability-focused skills and knowledge, whilst also helping them gain exposure to the world of work. The City Corporation has historically committed to improving career prospects for learners in the City and beyond and there will be additional focus in this area for the 2024/25 academic year.
- **Personal Development** – Supporting the development of values, principles, competencies and life skills that will help build the confidence of learners and encourage them to live positive, productive lives. A focus on personal development is an essential component of a holistic education and will benefit all learners both personally and professionally.

Developing a Bid for City Premium Grant Funding

How are bids submitted?

Schools will be informed of bidding windows and submission deadlines by email.

Bid submission and project reporting are completed via ImpactEd - an online impact measurement platform designed for UK schools. This platform enables better tracking by teachers, the schools, and the City of London Academy Trust. It also enables clearer overall impact reporting, and reporting by specific groups of pupils or by specific programmes.

ImpactEd onboarding sessions are offered periodically for new and existing project leads within schools, and technical support is always available via the ImpactEd team.

What does a good bid look like?

The ImpactEd platform will provide the overall format for your bid. The first part is the 'Project Description'. This should be a *maximum* of 250 words, and cover what the initiative is, why you are proposing it, who it will impact, how long it will last, where it will take place and what your intended outcomes of the project are. Project descriptions do not need to be complex and lengthy – you just need to provide a simple but complete summary of your proposed project, with impact and value for money being key areas of focus in your decision making. Here's an example:

Boxing Enrichment:

Students will be given the opportunity to develop their physical health, sporting skills and mental discipline through boxing lessons. The sessions will run during enrichment lessons and will be open to students from years 7 - 10. Sessions will take place at the Islington boxing club allowing the students to experience a real-world boxing gym. As students will have chosen to attend the sessions, the professional coaches training them will be able to talent spot and advise interested students on how to potentially pursue the sport more seriously. Our long-term aim is that this initiative will raise the confidence of students attending whilst also teaching them self-discipline.

Once you have entered your project description, you will need to add some granular details in the boxes provided. These will include information such as costs, the number of staff involved, the number of pupils you hope to engage, and the number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.

To finish you will need to add 2 or 3 evaluation measures to your proposal. This will make clear what outcomes you intend to measure. For the example above, relevant measures might be '*School Engagement*', '*Grit*', and '*Motivation*'. Additional support in developing bids is always available via the ImpactEd support team.

Please note that where funding envelopes are applicable, amounts will be clearly set out when you are invited to bid via email. Please also note that bids can now be submitted for projects that will last up to a maximum of 3 years. In cases where projects last longer than a single academic year, funding will be awarded annually for each year of the activity. The full cost of a multi-year project will not be paid up front.

What are the reporting requirements?

Whilst there is no expectation that every project will be a success, it is expected that reporting will take place in all cases.

Where projects are particularly short or have a very small associated cost, a simplified reporting process will be used, however, all project bids will still need to be submitted via ImpactEd.

In all other cases ImpactEd must be used for full reporting, and support will be provided by the City Corporation and the ImpactEd team to help schools with this. Failure to evidence outcomes and impact may result in the school being ineligible to apply for funds the following year.

Further Information

For more detailed information please also refer to the City Premium Grant 'Frequently Asked Questions' document. Further support can be found at the following sources.

Evaluation Development & Technical Support - ImpactEd:

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