



Bryan Slater
Director of Education

REF: MI 44/00

FINANCE

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

SUBJECT:		Standards Fund Grant No 33 - Small Schools Fund
WORKING TITLE:		Standards Fund Grant No 33 - Small Schools Fund
DATE PUBLISHED:		March 2000
DATE EFFECTIVE:		Immediate
DISTRIBUTION:	Headteachers of all Norfolk schools Copy to: All Review & Development Advisers Steering Group Members Chairs of Governors of all Norfolk schools (Letter only - for information)	FORMAT: Letter, appendices and bid pro forma.
SUMMARY: Letter from Dr Slater outlining the purpose of the Grant and how we propose to use it to improve standards in small schools. Arrangements for bidding are explained and a range of models is included for possible activities.		
ACTION REQUIRED: All small schools of under 200 pupils to consider whether to bid for grant in collaboration with other partners. All bids to be received by 18th April 2000 . Headteacher to pass copy letter to Chairs of Governors for information.		
DATE DOCUMENT OBSOLETE:		July 2001
ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS: Standards Fund Booklet - 2000/2001		
RELEVANT ASPECT OF EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN OR OFSTED LEA ACTION PLAN: All Education Development Plan priorities and Annex 2.4.		
CONTACT: Tim Newton		TEL: 01692 409500

SC/TN/KLH

10th March 2000

Tim Newton

01692 409500

Fax: 01692 406166

To Headteachers of all Schools

Dear Colleague

Standards Fund – Grant No 33 – Small Schools Support Fund 2000/2001 - £520,931 available from September 2000

You may recall that I wrote to you in September 1999 to let you know that elected members had agreed that work should be undertaken to develop models for closer collaboration in order to provide a strengthened foundation for the future of small primary schools. I am pleased to be able to let you know that we now have access to a substantial resource to enable us to take this forward.

This new Standards Fund activity provides an exciting opportunity for us in Norfolk to work together in developing innovative approaches to improve educational standards in small schools. The DfEE sees this as an important area of development and is committing £20 million nationally to pilot a range of projects. The details of the objectives and eligible expenditure as defined by the DfEE are set out in Appendix A.

The timescale for planning the use of these resources is inevitably tight, but we have already established an LEA Steering Group to manage this grant. We consulted on 28th January with a representative group of small school headteachers on the best way to plan and develop a range of projects. The proposals accompanying this letter are the outcomes of those meetings.

The grant has been calculated on the basis of the numbers of pupils in schools of less than 200 (which in Norfolk would represent only £21 per pupil). Therefore, the consultation and steering groups have agreed that, in the Norfolk context, it would be appropriate to give particular priority to schools in the following category:

“100 or fewer pupils where typically the headteacher has 0.6 or more class teaching commitment and there is at least one class containing more than two year groups”.

However, the grant will not be exclusive to this category of schools and indeed small schools may well propose collaborative activities with larger primary, special or secondary schools in the area.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL – EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SMALL SCHOOLS FUND – GRANT 33 – 2000/2001
£520,931 AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS
SECTION A – CONSULTATION SECTION B – BID PROFORMA

Participating Schools:
Co-ordinating Headteacher/School:
Co-ordinating School Location Code:

Section A - Consultation

Should emphasis be given to schools with less than 100 pupils?

YES	NO

Any other comments:

Section B – Bid

	Curriculum Development (A)	Leadership & Management Development (B)	Structural Development (C)
1			
2			
3			
4			
Other			

**Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate which model your bid is based on.
If you have not selected one of the suggested models, but have developed a
different idea, please give your project a brief title, below:**

Project Title

What is the aim of the project and how will it improve standards in all participating schools?

Project Description (Please see Notes of Guidance)

BUDGET PLAN (To be completed for all bids.) (Figures to the nearest £10.00.)

	Sept 2000-March 2001	April 2001-August 2001
Staffing, including oncosts:		
Teachers		
Supply cover		
Classroom assistants		
Travel expenses		
Equipment, books and materials		
ICT		
Accommodation		
Advisory Service Support		
Other costs		
<u>Total Cost of Project</u>	£	
Less Income from:		
Other Standards Fund Grants	£	
Other Sources	£	

Net Amount Required from Grant No 33 (Small Schools Fund) =

£

Measurable Success Criteria, Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

Signed:
(Co-ordinating Headteacher)

Date:

Please return to Kate Hobart, Northern Education Services Centre, Market Street, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9BZ (kate.hobart.edu@norfolk.gov.uk)

To reach us by Tuesday 18th April 2000.

This letter is part of the wider consultation process which the DfEE requires us to carry out and comments are invited on the enclosed proforma. Since the DfEE is looking for innovative approaches we are seeking bids for the allocation of these funds rather than a simple formula allocation and I am now inviting all eligible schools to consider developing proposals by **18th April**. **To further assist you with this very tight timescale I am making available supply costs.**

To assist you we enclose a range of possible projects that schools may wish to consider bidding for:

A: Curriculum Development

1. Additional Staffing
2. Additional ICT Support
3. Improving Children's Independence

B: Leadership and Management

1. Joint Monitoring
2. Shared Bursar/Administrator
3. Residential Conference
4. Clerking

C: Structural Development

1. Partnership
2. Village Communities Schools

It is important to recognise that schools may well have their own innovative ideas. Because we are very aware of the existing pressures on small schools, we have tried to keep the bidding process as simple as possible.

As the grant activities have to begin in September, planning and any staffing appointments will need to be carried out during the summer term. It will therefore be necessary to inform schools of successful bids by mid-May at the latest. Bids will be considered by a representative group, as outlined in the Notes of Guidance. We envisage that all projects will run from September 2000 to July 2001 and bids should be prepared on that basis. Clusters and other groups of schools should therefore be planning to meet during this half-term to discuss and agree proposals. I would particularly welcome bids which include other sources of funding (for example, other Standards Fund categories) to enhance the size and scope of the project.

As is usual with Standards Fund grants we are required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the activities under this grant. We are proposing to use for this purpose £15,000 of the total, allowed by the DfEE in recognition of the role that the LEA should play. The results of the evaluations will be shared with schools to enable us to identify the most effective way of raising standards in small schools.

I am sure that you will see this as an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the high standard of education in many of our small schools.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Slater
Director of Education

Encs