



Ministry of Defence

MOD Education Support Fund: 2016: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. My school only has a small percentage of Service/Reserves children in it, is there any point in me making a bid?

A. The Directorate Children & Young People recognise that in some cases it may be that a school/Academy/Free School with a smaller percentage of Service children may actually be affected in a greater way by exceptional mobility or deployment issues. The Directorate would like the Fund to be as inclusive as possible but will need to ensure that value for money in every bid is achieved. It could be that a school with lower numbers of Service children could club together with schools with similar needs and form a joint bid.

Q2. There are several schools/Academies in my area, all with similar needs, can we provide a joint bid?

A. Yes, the Directorate would welcome joint bids. These can either be through schools/Academies/Free Schools or from Local Authorities. A joint bid would need to include details of all the schools/Academies/Free Schools that make it up, how the money/resource would be split and in the case of schools/Academies/Free Schools it would require a lead school/Academy/Free School to be identified who would then act as focal point and receiver of the grant. Joint bids are particularly welcomed as they often offer value for money for both applicants and the Fund.

Q3. Can a school apply separately if they are also included in a joint/cluster bid?

A. Yes, but the funding applied for as an individual school **and** as part of a joint/cluster bid must not be for the same requirements, as this constitutes double funding.

Q4. What is the point of the Military Sponsor?

A. It is important that applications support the school but also represent the views of the Armed Forces (AF) community that it supports. The military sponsor will be the person from the AF community (this could be AF personnel or an MoD employee/representative) that you have had most contact with. This military sponsor will need to agree to be contacted by DCYP for their view on the application if required.

Q5. Where can I get more information about the Fund?

A. The Directorate Children & Young People will provide information on their website <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/directorate-children-and-young-people> including the process, criteria, bid ideas, FAQs, application pack and closing date. Alternatively any questions should be directed to DCYP-MOD-ESF-Mailbox@mod.uk or to the Directorate Children & Young People, Portacabin 8, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire, SN9 6BE.

Q6. Is this Fund the same as the Service Pupil Premium and is it just for schools in England?

A. No, the Fund is separate to the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) which is provided by the Department for Education. This Fund is provided for by the Ministry of Defence and will be used to assist schools with Service school children throughout the UK.



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Q7. I've submitted a bid, what happens next?

A. Bids will firstly be scrutinised by a regional panel (one for each country within the UK) which will make recommendations based on the strength of evidence within the bids against the criteria and a scoring sheet. All bids will then be sent to the funding panel, where the Directorate will review and make a final decision on the successful bids and the allocation of funding. All bidders, successful or not, will be informed of the outcome within two months of the funding panel meeting.

Q8. There are Service/Reserves children within my school but we are not affected by exceptional mobility or deployment issues; should I make a bid anyway?

A. On current planning the Fund is limited to £6M per year and priority will be given to those bids that reflect a need based on either current or future, where known, exceptional mobility and deployment issues. In 2016 the fund will give preference to those areas likely to be affected by the change in geographical footprint of the Armed Forces.

Q9. I organise an Early Years Foundation Stage childcare facility which has a Service personnel contingent, can I bid for money?

A. Unfortunately not, this Fund is specifically for schools/Academies/Free Schools with Service children in them. It cannot be used for childcare facilities or indeed for colleges of further education. The Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme may be an alternative option to consider.

Q10 We have identified a long term requirement for assistance, what financial support can the MoD supply?

A. On current planning the Fund will be available until 2017/2018, however, the MoD will not be entering into any long term financial commitment and a successful bid should not be seen as the MoD committing any future funding, other than the agreed amount from the bid.

Q11. Is there a limit to the number of bids that a school can make in a given period i.e. one per term/per year?

A. There will only be one application round in 2016 and it is likely that this will be completed by end Jan 16 with payments being made in Apr 16. A bid can contain several different items within it and each element should be individually costed.

Q12. The Fund will have to be divided up between all bids which are agreed. How much can one school realistically bid for?

A. Schools/Academies/Free Schools/Local Authorities should make a realistic bid for what they actually need but a bid would also benefit from showing what could be done with a reduced amount. Bids will be scrutinised to ensure they show value for money, the Directorate will also be looking across the wider area in case economies of scale mean that it might be more effective to provide alternative solutions to better benefit a higher number of schools/Academies/Free Schools.



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Q13. If a bid is rejected is there an appeals process?

A. Each bid will receive a written response of the outcome of their bid which will briefly explain the reason for any unsuccessful bid. There will be no appeals process, however, unsuccessful schools/Academies/Free Schools would be encouraged to take note of the feedback and resubmit during subsequent rounds, if appropriate.

Q14. I have a bid that will run during our academic year but stretches over fiscal years is this allowed?

A. Yes, however depending upon the timescales and amounts involved you may be asked to apply for a grant in each year rather than getting the full amount in one go.

Q15. Are there any plans for Service Children Education (SCE) schools to be able to bid for funds?

A. As the money can primarily only be allocated to state funded schools, Academies, Free Schools and local authorities in the UK, and SCE serves UK military communities overseas, it will not be able to bid for funds. Schools working in partnership with SCE, (or DCYP) or other legitimate parties will have their bids considered.

Q16. Are there representatives from Scotland, Wales or NI on the final judging panel?

A. There is no regional representation on the Funding Panel; independence is maintained through the Families' Federation representative and also a representative from MOD finance. Regional representation is at the Regional Panel and it will be their responsibility to ensure that bids from their areas meet the criteria and are marked accordingly. Part of the role of the Funding Panel is to look "across the piece" and see if there are things that could be carried out throughout the UK that would reach more Service children.

Q17. Will successful applicants from previous rounds be able to apply for a grant in subsequent rounds?

A. Yes, the Funding Panel want the grant to support as many schools/Academies/Free Schools as possible and would encourage subsequent bids for **new** initiatives.

Please note: A number of bids submitted to the 2015 round were for continuation of requirement or a duplication of previous bids. Any bid that is submitted to the 2016 round which falls into this category, without exceptional reasons, will automatically be discounted.

Q18. Why do we need to send you a signed bank details page and signed headed paper?

A. A hard copy of your bank details with two authorising signatures, together with the signed headed paper (which should be signed by one of those signing the bank details page) is required by our finance department in order for payment to be made. Failure to send us this paperwork when requested will result in a payment delay to successful applicants.

*For the 2016 funding round, please **do not** send us your **bank details** or headed paper **until** you have been **notified of the outcome** of your application.*



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Q19. I have submitted my application but not received a bid number, what should I do?

A. You should receive your bid number within 3 working days. If you do not, it is your responsibility to contact your regional contact to ensure that your bid has been received and ask for a bid number to be issued.

Q20. Where do I send my application once complete?

A. Only electronic applications will be accepted for bids against the 2016 Education Support Fund.

Forms to be considered by the **English** and **Welsh** Regional Panel to be returned to:
DCYP-MOD-ESF-Mailbox@mod.uk

Forms to be considered by the **Northern Ireland** Regional Panel to be returned to:
AWS-38X-CESO@mod.uk

Forms to be considered by the **Scottish** Regional Panel to be returned to:
EdinburghGar-SO2Welfare-PERS@mod.uk