

Criteria

Schools are invited to bid for additional funds to support activities designed to promote inclusive educational opportunities for children with special educational needs for the year 2003/04. Priority will be given to activities which clearly reflect outcomes in line with local and national priorities; namely to remove barriers to progress, address special educational needs and promote inclusion. **This Grant is designed to support special school as well as mainstream school projects.** Proposals will be particularly welcome which:

- are from clusters of schools
- strongly reflect partnership activities
- further develop links between mainstream and special schools for children with special and/or additional needs

Your proposal should:

- Increase opportunities for children in special schools to benefit from mainstream experiences or;
- develop and support inclusive educational systems for the inclusion of children with special educational needs within mainstream schools, including outreach support from special schools;
- develop the skills of teachers and learning support assistants who work with children and young people who experience special educational needs in order to meet the requirement of the SEN and Disability Code of Practice;
- develop early intervention without recourse to statutory processes;
- Strengthen partnership strategies between your school and parent/carer(s) to support the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities; and
- Improve the effectiveness of inclusive provision.

Activities to be supported should include:

- 1 collaborative working partnerships between mainstream schools and those with specialist units or with special schools which develop models of inclusion where staff expertise is shared and developed leading to greater inclusive working practice;
- 2 collaborative working partnerships with the LEA, the Primary Care Trusts or Voluntary Organisations. (Further information on the latter can be obtained from the Parent Partnership Officers). It is expected that schools will have fully discussed the detail of the bid with identified partners before its submission;
- 3 partnerships between mainstream schools, those with specialist units, or with special schools which allow groups of children to benefit from enhanced learning experiences within another school setting;

- 4 collaboration between clusters of schools on whole-school professional development activities focused upon a specific area of special educational needs. Priority will be given to schools wishing to support children presenting challenging behaviour.

Activities which are outside of the criteria

It is not anticipated that bids will solely include purchasing specialist equipment, materials or specific training courses.

Key Priorities

Priority will be given to proposals which:

- have clear, demonstrable outcomes and include mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation;
- provide collaboration within and across clusters of schools and/or with Health/ Social Services;
- provide a clear direct link to the key targets set out in the Education Development Plan (2002) and/or LEA's Behaviour Support Plan (2001);
- address priorities for improvement identified in current Ofsted post-inspection Action Plans in relation to special educational needs;
- link directly to targets and priorities in the School Development Plan for special educational needs;
- implement the Framework for Development for Children with Special Educational Needs in Norfolk (2002) as the county's strategic approach to inclusion for special educational needs; and
- can demonstrate how the work can be sustained at the end of the project.

Available Funds

Up to £250,000 is available for this activity which is designed to support inclusion activities by both mainstream and special schools. It is anticipated that funding for each specific activity will be at a level of £15,000 or more.

Evaluation

Schools will wish to be aware that it is proposed to publish and circulate to all schools, summary evaluations of all projects.

Applications should be made on the attached proforma.

Applications should be forwarded no later than 25th April 2003 to:

***James Thatcher, Principal Educational Psychologist, Education Department,
County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DL***