



## Applying for a grant from SHINE: Frequently Asked Questions



SHINE believes that all children should have the chance to succeed, irrespective of their background or family income. To this end, we support educational programmes to raise the attainment and aspiration of children from economically deprived areas.

Underpinning all our work is a focus on funding projects at critical points in a child's educational life, where progress often begins to stall, and where we have developed specialist knowledge and experience. All projects fall under the following funding areas:

- Teacher-led innovation competitions
- SHINE Saturday programmes
- School-based partnerships

## Introduction

This document is intended to provide guidance on applying for funding from SHINE. We recognise that there are many more, good quality applications than we have the resources to support, and so unfortunately we are not able to support many of the projects that apply. However, there are a couple of general principles that are likely to boost your chances of success.

1. Do your research. Please read through the documentation thoroughly on our website before contacting the SHINE office to discuss your bid for funding. If you are well informed already about the nature of the programmes we support, this will help us to assess your application more quickly.
2. When writing your application, please provide full information against specific headings and focus specifically on what the questions are asking. You may annex additional reports and documents, but any highlights should be included in the main body of the text you send and should make it easy for the reader to understand.
3. Ask someone who doesn't know your project to read the bid and check for understanding. Try to avoid submitting bids with too many acronyms or unexplained terms.
4. We provide seed funding to get new projects established, but we do not generally fund ongoing delivery costs after the first few years. The best applications demonstrate how the activity will be sustained after SHINE funding ends.

## The criteria for SHINE funding

We make grants to expand and/or develop existing projects with proven results, rather than simply sustain them as they are. We do not support applications are looking just to replace the loss of statutory funding.

**Essential** – all proposals must:

- Focus on **raising academic achievement** levels in core subjects;
- Reach **disadvantaged** children aged 4-18 years;
- Target those who are **underachieving** or at risk of underachieving, including those with the potential for high attainment;
- Be cost effective and offer **value for money**;
- Be a **sustained** intervention;
- Demonstrate **need** and **demand** for the project;
- Demonstrate **high quality teaching** and resources.

**Desirable** – applications have a greater chance of success if they:

- Show a clear theory of change, including measurable educational outcomes;
- Will reach a high number of children;
- Will use qualified staff;
- Have a high student-to-staff ratio (this can include the use of peer mentors);
- Have some match funding in place;
- Link families of participants to the project in a way which supports their child's learning;
- Have good links with partner schools/the wider community;
- Make creative use of teaching resources.

**We do not fund:**

- Programmes that take place outside of England;
- Individuals (with the exception of our teacher-led innovation competitions);
- Short term or one-off projects;
- Bursaries or any kind of student fees;
- Direct replacement of statutory funding;
- Programmes where the primary aim is the personal development of young people rather than raising academic achievement levels;
- Capital build programmes for schools or other education institutions;
- Programmes narrowly targeted at specific beneficiary groups.

**What are the most common reasons to reject applications?**

- The curriculum is not sufficiently different to what the children already receive.
- The application is not sufficiently clear about outcomes or delivery.
- The applicant does not have robust systems of governance in place.
- The partnership between schools is weaker than in other applications.
- The senior leadership team are not as engaged as in other schools.
- There is not sufficient evidence of need or demand for this type of programme.
- It is not clear how this project could be scaled up or sustained in future years.
- The applicant lacks the capacity or willingness to engage with non-financial advice and support.
- The application is late, incomplete or lacks supporting evidence.

**What should I do next?**

If you wish to enquire about any funding opportunities from SHINE, please read this guidance thoroughly, and then contact the grants team at [info@shinetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@shinetrust.org.uk) or on 0208 393 1880, where you can discuss your eligibility and current funding opportunities.

## Frequently asked questions for teacher-led innovation

### 1. What is Let Teachers SHINE?

This is an annual competition to find new ideas and fresh approaches to boosting academic results for disadvantaged students. 10 – 12 teachers win funding each year chosen a panel of judges from SHINE, TES and our corporate supporter: Capita SIMS.

In 2016 we also launched the London Teachers Innovation Fund in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for London.

### 2. What are you looking to support?

We want to find the next big ideas that can transform the educational prospects of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Many of these ideas will start small, but with our support they can achieve great things. For examples of other teachers we are supporting, please visit: <https://www.shinetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/teacher-led-innovation/>.

### 3. What is the average grant?

We award up to £15,000 in the first year with a possibility of further funding in future years for projects with a proven track record and potential for replication.

### 4. What types of individuals are eligible?

Any qualified, practising teacher can apply, however the initiative must benefit disadvantaged students and focus on academic achievement in core subjects.

### 5. When should I apply and what are my chances of success?

The competition is open from February to April each year. We receive over a hundred applications and from these we usually shortlist 20 – 30 applications with the aim of making around ten grants a year.

### 6. What if I'm not a teacher but I have a great idea?

There may be other opportunities for you to work with SHINE. Please contact the SHINE office with some outline information on your idea and we will advise you with the next steps.

**For more information on our teacher-led innovation programmes, please visit:** <https://www.shinetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/teacher-led-innovation/>

## Frequently asked questions for SHINE's Saturday Programmes

### 1. What is SHINE on Saturday?

SHINE on Saturday helps underachieving children in primary schools by injecting 20% extra tuition into every school week. A combination of practical learning, a creative curriculum and outside trips allows SHINE on Saturday projects to take a fresh approach to core subjects.

Every year, the programme runs for 25 Saturdays between September and July, and involves at least 50 students in Years 4 to 6. Most projects recruit students from several local primary schools, with one lead school hosting the project.

### 2. What is SHINE in Secondaries?

SHINE in Secondaries is modelled on SHINE on Saturday, but targets children in Years 7 and 8 as they undergo transition from primary to secondary school. Over 25 weeks, the children access a combination of practical learning, a creative curriculum and outside trips, helping them to build supportive peer groups and receive extra tuition in English and/or maths.

### 3. What is the average grant?

The average cost of new projects is £35,000 per annum. This covers staffing, resources, trips and lunches, with the host school covering the premises and maintenance costs.

As a way of meeting the growing demand from schools, SHINE grants cover 50% of the total cost. As a result, we will only consider new applications from schools that are able to contribute or secure the other 50% themselves. The average grant is therefore £17,500 per year over two to three years.

### 4. What types of schools are eligible for a grant?

Grants are generally awarded to schools in disadvantaged areas with the capacity to deliver a high quality Saturday programme that makes best use of the resources available. Applicant schools have usually been rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Our geographical focus is mainly on London and Greater Manchester however, we will consider supporting projects in other areas of deprivation in England.

## **5. When should I apply and what are my chances of success?**

SHINE on Saturday has been running for over ten years. In that time, we have continued to develop and refine our model. We are now at the point where we know the model works well and we have significant interest from schools.

This means that we receive applications from many successful, well-managed schools. However, we are unable to fund everything. Our trustees typically approve half of the SHINE Saturday applications they receive. We are currently looking to make only a few grants each year.

It will usually take around six months from your initial enquiry to a final decision. As funding decisions are usually taken in March or June, we would recommend the preceding autumn term as the best time to contact us, although we are happy to discuss your query at any time.

## **6. What is Serious Fun on Saturday?**

Serious Fun on Saturday works in partnership with independent schools, who open their doors to lend their superb facilities and excellent teaching resources to local children unlikely to receive extra educational support at home. The students access exciting, practical learning opportunities that extend and enrich their normal weekday curriculum and encourage them to think for themselves.

Every Serious Fun project is different: some work with primary students, some with secondary, including Key Stage 5. Others concentrate on those with the potential to attain high grades at school but who are currently underachieving. They can focus on maths, science or languages; some are for the highest achieving students. However, every project runs for 10 – 15 Saturdays per year, for at least 25 students. Most projects recruit students from between three to five local state schools, with the independent school hosting the Saturday sessions.

## **7. What is the average grant?**

A Serious Fun on Saturday grant is £15,000 – £20,000 over three years. This contributes towards the costs of staffing, resources, trips and lunches, with the independent and state partner schools covering the balance of funds (usually a combination of cash and in-kind contributions).

## **8. What types of schools are eligible for a grant?**

Serious Fun on Saturday grants are awarded to independent schools anywhere in England that can target students from disadvantaged backgrounds and that have the capacity to deliver a high quality Saturday programme that makes best use of the resources available.

## **9. When should I apply and what are my chances of success?**

New applications are usually considered in December or March and we would suggest a lead in time of at least four months, although we are happy to discuss your query at any time.

SHINE's trustees typically approve two in every three Serious Fun on Saturday applications that they receive.

**For more information on these programmes, please visit:**

**<https://www.shinetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/shine-saturday-programmes/>**

## Frequently asked questions for other school-based partnerships

We have also developed a number of other programmes in partnership with schools, including:

[SHINELabs](#): A programme designed to provide the tools and resources to improve outcomes in primary science, particularly for disadvantaged children in Years 4 and 5.

[Student Leaders](#): A peer mentoring programme that trains high ability students in Years 10 and 11 to deliver academic support to younger students who are struggling in maths.

### 1. What is SHINELabs?

SHINELabs seeks to improve primary science provision for children in Years 4 and 5. Normal classrooms are turned into spaces for investigative and independent learning in science including practical workshops, visits by expert practitioners, outings to museums, science centres and inspirational places. SHINELabs includes a targeted after school club for those students who have shown the most promise in science.

### 2. What is Student Leaders?

Student Leaders is an innovative peer mentoring programme that was developed by a teacher in Stockport as part of our Let Teachers SHINE programme. The programme has now been replicated in other schools in the area. It matches underachieving students in Key Stage 3 who are struggling in maths with older students in the school, usually aged 14 – 15 years old.

### 3. What is the average grant?

SHINELab Schools will receive funding of £15,000 over two years, including £4,000 to refurbish a space in the school to become a SHINELab. In addition, schools will be given resources which have been developed by the Ogden Trust and Primary Science Teaching Trust, to help primary school teachers deliver more practical lessons and experiments. Schools are expected to contribute £4,000 towards overall costs.

A Student Leaders grant is £15,000 over two years to cover staff time and resources with schools contributing additional cash of around £6,000 to the two-year grant.

#### **4. What types of schools are eligible?**

Grants are awarded to schools in disadvantaged areas of London or Manchester with the capacity to deliver a high quality programme that makes best use of the resources available.

#### **5. When should I apply and what are my chances of success?**

New applications to these strands are usually considered in March or June of each year and we suggest a lead in time of at least four months. We are currently looking to make only a few grants each year.

#### **6. What if I have another idea?**

In addition to these programmes, we are always open to discussing new programmes that we could develop in partnership with schools that share our aims and objectives. Please read our funding criteria and then contact the SHINE office.

**For more information on our school-based programmes, please visit:**  
<https://www.shinetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/school-based-partnerships/>

### **Contact us:**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the SHINE team by emailing: [infor@shinetrust.org.uk](mailto:infor@shinetrust.org.uk) or calling 0208 393 1880.