



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can I make a joint application with another teacher?**

We understand that these types of projects are often time consuming and best split up, so there is no problem in applying with another teacher. For simplicity of correspondence though, we ask to be provided with the details of just one person to be the main contact for the project. This will be the teacher accountable for the project.

### **I work at a private school / in a school with very little disadvantage, can I still apply?**

We welcome applications from teachers from all areas and all types of schools. Our only stipulation is that the children targeted have some indicator of economic disadvantage. For example, two previous winners were from private schools, but ran their projects for disadvantaged children from other schools in the local area.

### **I work in a Pupil Referral Unit, can I still apply?**

As long as you are a qualified teacher and your project targets disadvantaged students you can apply.

### **I am Teaching Assistant / Learning Support Assistant. Can I apply?**

A qualified teacher needs to lead the application, but often delivery of the project is supported by Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants.

### **I have my own educational company. Can I apply?**

We are only interested in funding qualified, practising teachers based in England. If you are successful, we will pay the grant via a school, so please ensure you have an agreement from a school to receive the grant on your behalf.

### **I'm not sure exactly how long my project will run for or how many hours it will be. Is it ok if I provide an estimate, as it may be subject to change?**

We understand that scheduling and contact hours can be subject to change, but please plan as accurately as possible. This also applies to your budget.

### **What data should I use to report on the outcomes of the project? Does it have to be data from standardised tests? Can I use questionnaires?**

For attainment data, where possible please use data your school already collects from standardised tests e.g. progress measures of word descriptors or levels, optional SATS or SATS, GCSEs, A-Levels etc. For any other outcomes, data from questionnaires or other evaluation tools are fine.

**You ask for some information about my background. Is that my professional background, or academic, or personal?**

Feel free to interpret this as you wish. You can tell us about any previous jobs, anything from your own personal background, or your teaching background that will be of interest and relevance to your application.

**In my budget, can I charge for my own time?**

Yes. We completely understand that you may have to take time out of school hours to organise, prepare, or run the project so we are happy to accept applications with this included in the budget. We will also pay for cover should you need to take time out of the classroom to design and deliver the project.

**As part of my project I want to invest in new technologies to be used in the classroom, how much equipment can I buy?**

We will not fund projects where equipment costs make up more than 50% of the total budget. While we are interested in seeing innovative uses of technology, we believe it is the teaching and pedagogy that should drive the project. Moreover, if equipment costs are too high then it will be difficult for the project to be replicated or expanded into other schools.

**I know I'm busy on the dates provided for phone interview and final presentation, is it worth applying?**

There is some flexibility, however if you reach the final shortlist, you will have to come one of the two final presentation days, which will be held in London and Manchester.

**I'd like to apply but I'm a bit nervous about presenting my idea in front of a panel of experts, what will this involve?**

The panels will be made up of SHINE trustees, partners and friends of SHINE who have an expertise in education, including some past Let Teacher SHINE winners. The panel will give you an opportunity to present your idea in person, followed by some questions by the panel. We aim to keep the format informal and friendly. Let Teachers SHINE is as much about investing in great teachers as it is supporting great ideas, so we are excited that this is the first year that those who decide the winning applications will have the chance to meet applicants in person.

**I have a lot of evidence to support my application. Can I include this with my application?**

The additional information you provide should be limited to section H. If you are shortlisted to get through to the next stage, you will be able to bring any further information with you then.

**Please read our [guidelines](#) if you have not done so already for more information.**

If you have any further questions or would like more information, please get in touch at [info@shinetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@shinetrust.org.uk) or give us a ring on 0113 280 5872.