



ARTS SUBJECTS

**THRIVING OR
SURVIVING
IN BOLTON?**

UP TO £2,000 FOR BOLTON SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE ARTS SUBJECTS

THE ARTS MATTER.

At a time of curriculum change and increasing pressure on school budgets, Bolton secondary schools are invited to apply for up to **£2,000 to invest in the future of arts subjects and creative learning.**

Whether it is a new ceramic kiln, digital media equipment, musical instruments, artist residencies, training or skills development for Arts teachers, curriculum resources or materials that protect and strengthen arts subjects, this funding can be used for initiatives that **help the arts thrive rather than simply survive** in your school.

We are looking for ambitious ideas that will strengthen arts subjects for young people now and for years to come. Any Arts subject(s) are eligible (Drama, Music, Art & Design, Textiles, Ceramics, Media Arts etc).

We hope to see applications that will look to address skills, training or equipment gaps that will make long term change to the way arts subjects can be taught in curriculum time.

Bolton Secondary Schools can apply for up to £2,000 to **help shape a future where creativity remains at the heart of education in Bolton.**

This fund is designed to strengthen curriculum-based arts education and is not intended to support one-off trips/visits or enrichment activities that do not contribute directly to sustainable curriculum development.

WHY NOW?

Across the country, arts subjects are facing increasing pressures on curriculum time, staffing and resources. The findings of the Cultural Learning Alliance's 2026 Report Card raises important questions about the future of arts education and whether young people continue to receive the creative opportunities they deserve.

Through *Arts Subjects: Thriving or Surviving in Bolton?*, Bolton Cultural Education Partnership (BCEP) is investing in secondary schools that are committed to protecting, promoting and safeguarding arts and cultural education within the curriculum.

The fund has been informed by the findings of the Cultural Learning Alliance's 2026 Report Card and accompanying Rapid Evidence Reviews, which highlight both the challenges facing arts education and the significant benefits that arts subjects bring to young people's educational, social and emotional development.

Read more here:

<https://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/report-card-and-rers-published-today/>

BCEP recognises that sustaining arts subjects requires more than maintaining existing provision.

We think our schools and teachers are amazing. But Schools need the capacity, support, expertise, resources and confidence to ensure arts education remains a strong and valued part of the curriculum for years to come.

This fund therefore seeks to support investments that **strengthen long-term curriculum resilience and build sustainable, high quality arts curriculum.**

ABOUT THE COMMISSION OPPORTUNITY

The Arts Subjects: Thriving or Surviving in Bolton?

Commission opportunity has been created to strengthen arts and cultural education in Bolton secondary schools.

The commission recognises the important role that arts subjects play in young people's education, children and young people's entitlement to high quality arts education and seeks to support schools in maintaining and developing high-quality arts provision despite increasing financial pressures.

Schools are invited to apply for this money to invest in resources, equipment, materials or professional development that will strengthen curriculum-based arts education and create a lasting impact for current and future cohorts of students.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Bolton Cultural Education Partnership (BCEP) will award funding to up to 5 Bolton secondary schools.

Each successful school will receive up to £2,000 to invest in arts subjects.

The total fund value is £10,000.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This opportunity is open to **all non fee paying secondary schools in Bolton.**

Schools may submit one application outlining how they would use the £2,000 award to **strengthen arts subjects teaching, quality and long-term sustainability.**

WHAT CAN THE MONEY BE USED FOR?

The money must be used to **enhance arts subjects within the school curriculum.**

Applications should focus on strengthening the quality, delivery and sustainability of arts subjects taught during curriculum time.

Funding may be used for:

- Enhancing arts equipment, resources and materials
- Developing staff confidence, skills and knowledge in arts subjects
- Supporting curriculum development and innovation within arts subjects
- Artist or creative practitioner residencies/delivery in school that build staff expertise and curriculum capacity
- Resources that improve participation, achievement and progression within arts subjects

The focus of this fund is on curriculum-based arts provision across all Arts subjects.

Applications should demonstrate how the proposed investment will strengthen teaching and learning within arts subjects, including Art & Design, Music, Drama, Dance, Media, Film and other creative curriculum areas.

Funding is **not intended** to support extra-curricular clubs, one-off enrichment activities, trips, visits, performances or activities that sit outside the school's curriculum offer.

Funding **must support current and future cohorts of students**, creating benefits that extend beyond a single event, project or academic year.

Priority may be given to proposals that demonstrate how the investment will **build long-term capacity** within the school and **strengthen arts education** beyond the immediate funding period. The strongest applications will show how the school will be in a stronger position to deliver high-quality arts education three to five years from now.

BCEP particularly welcomes proposals that are ambitious, strengthen staff confidence, expertise and curriculum leadership in arts subjects. Investment in professional development, curriculum design and collaborative work with artists or cultural organisations can create lasting benefits that extend well beyond the initial funding period.

Applications seeking funding for equipment should clearly demonstrate how the equipment will contribute to improved curriculum delivery, increased participation, enhanced teaching and learning, or the long-term sustainability of arts subjects within the school.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Arts equipment and resources
- Musical instruments used in curriculum delivery
- Digital, film and media equipment
- Artist or creative practitioner residencies linked to curriculum development and staff learning
- Teacher professional development and training
- Curriculum resources that increase participation and achievement in arts subjects
- Materials that enable the delivery of high-quality arts education

For music-related applications, schools are encouraged to outline any current or planned engagement with Bolton Music Service and how the proposed investment complements existing provision/can't be met by this offer <https://boltonmusicservice.com/>

Applications are encouraged from schools with ideas that will create a lasting impact and strengthen arts subjects for years to come.

HOW TO APPLY

Schools should complete the application form and submit it by Fri 9 October at 5pm.

Applications should clearly explain:

- What the money will be used for
- Why the investment is needed- what impact will it make?
- How students will benefit
- How the proposal strengthens curriculum-based arts education
- How the impact will be sustained beyond the initial funding period

Applications will be reviewed by Bolton CEP, which includes teachers, school leaders, Bolton Council and local arts organisations.

HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

Applications will be reviewed by a panel convened by Bolton CEP.

Online 30 min interviews may be undertaken if applications are highly competitive.

Awards will be made to schools that demonstrate both a strong proposal and a clear commitment to protecting, promoting and safeguarding arts subjects within their curriculum.

BCEP is seeking to invest in schools that view arts education as an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum and are actively working to sustain and strengthen creative opportunities for young people.

The panel will assess applications against the following criteria:

COMMITMENT TO ARTS EDUCATION

Bolton CEP is particularly interested in supporting schools that demonstrate a clear commitment to protecting, promoting and safeguarding arts subjects within the curriculum.

Applications should provide evidence of how the school values arts education and is working to ensure that young people continue to have access to high-quality creative learning opportunities.

CURRICULUM IMPACT

The extent to which the proposal strengthens the quality, breadth or sustainability of arts education within the curriculum.

BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY

The extent to which the proposal strengthens staff confidence, subject expertise, curriculum leadership or the school's ability to deliver high-quality arts education over time.

IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

How many students will benefit and how meaningful the impact is likely to be.

CREATIVITY AND AMBITION

The extent to which the proposal demonstrates innovative thinking and a commitment to strengthening arts and cultural opportunities.

SUSTAINABILITY

Whether the investment will continue to benefit students beyond the initial funding period.

LEGACY AND FUTURE IMPACT

The extent to which the investment will benefit both current students and future cohorts, leaving a sustainable legacy for the school's arts and cultural provision.

NEED

The degree to which the funding will address a specific challenge or opportunity within the school.

EQUITY AND ACCESS

How the proposal will help ensure that more young people can access high-quality arts and cultural learning opportunities.

Following assessment, Bolton CEP will select five schools to receive funding.

In making decisions, BCEP will consider both the quality of applications and the overall distribution of awards across the borough to ensure the fund delivers the greatest possible impact for young people.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please use your own template/document to send us your answers to these questions:

1. TELL US ABOUT YOUR IDEA.

Please provide a summary of what you would like to use the £2,000 for.

Up to 500 words.

2. WHY IS THIS INVESTMENT NEEDED?

Describe the challenge, opportunity or gap around teaching arts subjects, that this funding will help address.

3. HOW WILL THIS INVESTMENT STRENGTHEN ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM?

Please explain which subject areas will benefit and how the funding will improve teaching, learning and student outcomes during curriculum time.

4. HOW WILL STUDENTS BENEFIT?

Explain the difference this investment will make to young people in your school.

5. WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Please tell us:

- Which year groups will be involved
- Approximately how many students will benefit each year/in the future
- Whether the investment will benefit all students studying the subject or a specific group

6. HOW WILL THIS INVESTMENT BENEFIT FUTURE COHORTS OF STUDENTS?

Please explain how the equipment, resources, materials or staff development funded through this award will continue to support young people beyond the current academic year.

7. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WILL THIS FUNDING SUPPORT?

(Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Equipment
- ☐ Materials
- ☐ Staff confidence, skills and professional development
- ☐ Curriculum resources, development and innovation

Please provide brief details.

8. WHAT IS YOUR PROPOSED BUDGET?

Please provide a brief breakdown of how the £2,000 would be spent.

9. HOW DOES THIS PROPOSAL DEMONSTRATE YOUR SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND SAFEGUARDING ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM, AND HOW WILL IT CONTRIBUTE TO THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS SUBJECTS WITHIN YOUR SCHOOL?

10. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW?

Optional.

EVALUATION AND DOCUMENTATION

As part of accepting the award, successful schools will be required to support the evaluation of the fund.

This will help Bolton CEP understand the impact of the funding, celebrate success stories and demonstrate the value of arts and cultural education across the borough.

PARTICIPATION IN EVALUATION ACTIVITY

Successful schools will be required to complete a short evaluation survey at the end of the funded activity or implementation period.

The survey will gather information on:

- How the funding was used
- The number of students who benefited
- The impact on teaching and learning
- The impact on student engagement, participation and outcomes
- Lessons learned and future plans

Schools may also be invited to provide a short case study, quote or example of good practice.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING

Successful schools must be willing to support the documentation of their project through photography and/or filming.

Bolton CEP may arrange for a professional photographer and/or filmmaker to visit the school during the implementation period to capture:

- Students engaging with funded resources or activities
- Arts and cultural learning taking place within the curriculum
- Equipment, materials and resources purchased through the fund
- Staff and student reflections on the impact of the investment

Schools will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate image and video consent permissions are in place for any students who may be photographed or filmed.

Any photography or filming will be arranged in advance with the school and carried out in accordance with the school's safeguarding, consent and visitor procedures.

Images, video footage and case studies may be used by Bolton CEP and its partners for reporting, evaluation, advocacy, marketing and promotional purposes.

SCHOOL DECLARATION

By submitting this application, we confirm that:

- The information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge.
- Any funding awarded will be used for the purposes outlined in this application.
- We will participate in Bolton CEP's evaluation activity, including completion of a short evaluation survey.
- We will support reasonable requests for photography and/or filming and ensure appropriate image consent permissions are in place.
- We understand that images, video footage and case studies may be used by Bolton CEP and its partners to demonstrate the impact of the fund.

KEY DATES

Application Opens: Wednesday 23rd September 2026

Application Deadline: Friday 9th October 2026 5pm

Successful Schools Notified: Mid-End November 26

Funding Distributed: December 26

Applications should be submitted to boltoncep@mailbox.org

**For any questions regarding
the application process,
please contact Bolton CEP.**

