



Practice Development Grants 2024-2025 - Guidance for Applicants

IMPORTANT DATES

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| Applications portal opens on our website | Thursday 22 February 2024 at 9am (UK time) |
| Zoom meetings for applicants | 10 minute meeting slots available on the following dates: 20 March, 17 April (between 8.30am-11.30am). Book at least 2 weeks in advance |
| Deadline for applications: | Thursday 2 May at 4pm (UK time) |
| Applicants notified if application has passed basic eligibility criteria and will be sent for scrutiny: | Monday 13 May 2024 |
| Applicants notified of the final outcome | Thursday 27 June 2024 |
| Projects must begin: | Between August 2024 and March 2025 |

THE FROEBEL TRUST

1. Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) was a pioneering German educator whose enduring influence has spread far and wide. He devised a set of principles and practices which formed part of an interactive education process, which he named 'Kindergarten.'
2. The Froebel Trust is a UK-based charity, which aims to promote and advance knowledge and understanding of a Froebelian approach to education, for the benefit of children (birth to eight years) and their families and educators, communities and environments.
3. The Froebel Trust's vision is of a world in which childhood is valued in its own right and each child's capability is recognised and respected. It is one in which all young children (birth to eight years) have access to high quality educational experiences based on [Froebelian principles](#).

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSES & FUNDING

4. The Froebel Trust provides funding for research and practice development as well as specialist training, and information and support for continuing professional learning.
5. Our work is focused on **Early Childhood Education and Care** for children from birth to eight years of age – a broad and often multi-disciplinary field of study to inform, support, critique and advance Froebelian approaches to education pedagogy and practice as well as further research.
6. Our grants for research include: Practice Development Grants (PDGs) aimed at enabling UK-based settings / schools to develop an aspect of practice underpinned by Froebelian

principles. You can read reports from previously funded projects on our website - www.froebel.org.uk/practitioner-support-grants/

7. **We can only support projects that are clearly linked to our charitable objects**, which are:
To promote for the public benefit the advancement and understanding of Froebelian principles of education in learning within the UK and internationally.
8. Applicants will hear on Thursday 27 June 2024 if they have been selected for the awards. The successful applicants must be in a position to commence their projects between August 2024 and March 2025.

WHO CAN APPLY?

9. The PDGs are available to early years settings including schools in the UK interested in further developing an aspect of Froebelian practice. The grants cover work with children and their families and communities. **Priority will be given to applicants who have not received a grant in previous years.** To be eligible to apply, settings must have a member of the management team, plus at least one other practitioner / teacher, who has completed (or will have completed before the project starts) a [Froebel course](#) at the University of Edinburgh or the University of Roehampton; or all six elements of the [Froebel short course](#) delivered by Travelling Froebel Tutors.
10. Settings / schools can apply for a grant of between £3,000 - £5,000. The grant is intended to cover training costs, supply cover implications and with a proportion of no more than 20% for resources and must start no later than 31 March 2025. Please note that payments cannot be made to individuals; a Practice Development Grant must be ring-fenced; and applicants will be required to submit an original bank statement and financial records before an award can be confirmed.
11. Settings / schools must be registered and inspected by the relevant, official body in Scotland, England, Wales or Northern Ireland.
12. In deciding whether to support travel to events, the Trust will give serious consideration to the benefits to the project versus the environmental impact.

HOW TO APPLY

13. Please complete the online application form on our website detailing:
 - Your Froebelian focus
 - Evidence of your team's Froebelian qualifications
 - Your project outline
 - Your plans for evaluating the project
 - Your plans for dissemination
 - A budget break down
 - A one page biography telling us about your team
14. The project should be completed within 12-18 months, and a copy of the final report must be sent to the Trust within three months of the project's completion. A fully

reconciled final financial account showing the expenditure for the project will also be required.

15. Make sure you have the support of the head of your setting before preparing and submitting an application. Please consider the setting's sustainability policy and the environmental impact of your proposed project.
16. The Froebel Trust is committed to Sustainable Development Goals, an international commitment to end poverty and hunger and stop climate change. We ask you to tell us about how your project will align with these aims in the application form. You can find out more about Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) on the UNESCO [website](#).
17. The online grant application portal will open on Thursday 22 February 2024 at 9am (UK time). Our online portal allows applicants to save and return to partially completed forms. You will need to create a password to save your progress, please do not lose this as you will need it to resume your application.

We have provided answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our website. If you have a question not covered by the FAQs, please don't hesitate to contact our Programme Manager (Grants & Events) by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk

If you have further questions, you can book a ten minute meeting slot available on the following dates: 20 March or 17 April 2024 between 8.30am-11.30pm (UK time). Please book **at least two weeks** before with your preferred date and time by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk.

If you experience any problems with the online application portal or have any questions about eligibility, please email office@froebeltrust.org.uk.

18. Applications must be made through our online portal and completed before the deadline of **4pm on Thursday 2 May 2024** (UK time). Late applications will not be considered.
19. All eligible applications will be considered via our grant scrutiny and selection process. Applications that do not meet our basic eligibility criteria will be rejected. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Assessment Process

Applications that pass the eligibility check will be notified by 13 May if their application has been sent to the Scrutiny Group, along with an invitation link to complete the Froebel Trust's Equalities Monitoring Survey, which is anonymous, voluntary and separate from the grant application.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by at least 2 members of the Trust's Scrutiny Group, which will result in a shortlist of applications. The shortlist is derived from a combination of evaluative comments and scores for each application from the Scrutiny Group and will be reviewed by the grants panel.

Some applicants may be asked to provide further information to clarify aspects of their application; some may be invited to a short Zoom discussion for this purpose.

Outcome

On **27 June 2024**, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by email. Please bear this date in mind when adding email addresses to the application form.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. We want to support projects that aim to benefit young children, directly or indirectly. We want learning from projects to benefit those involved and be shared with the wider community of early childhood education and care.
2. The Trust's aim is to ensure that the funding and grants we offer are distributed fairly. Both Trustees and the Froebel Trust team are committed to increasing the inclusiveness of our grant-making processes, with the aim of achieving greater diversity in our applicants (including the schools, early years settings and universities which receive our funding). All applicants that meet our funding criteria will be sent a link to our **Equality Monitoring Survey** which helps us to understand how well we are reaching different groups of people. Answers are anonymous and participation is voluntary. You can read our statement on Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion on our [website](#).
3. Successful applicants will be required to sign our Grant Offer, which includes specific Terms and Conditions of awards, **which are not negotiable**. A sample copy can be viewed on our [website](#).
4. Anyone who receives a Practice Development Grant will be expected to meet online with the Programme Manager midway through the project to discuss progress.
5. A final report must be submitted by all Practice Development Grant holders within three months of the project's completion. We will provide guidance about preparing the final report, which will be peer reviewed and published on our website.
6. Reports that contain images are often more attractive to readers. We can only publish images if appropriate consent has been collected from people whose images are shown (or their parents or carers if they are children).
7. At the end of a project, a statement of expenditure will also be required. This must explain in detail how the grant was spent. We will supply a template to fill in.
8. We often ask our grant recipients to get involved in our seminars, webinars and conferences. This is a way to share knowledge and understanding with others, especially key messages and learning from a project.
9. The Froebel Trust must be acknowledged on any material or publicity that is produced for external presentation or publication in association with / resulting from a Practitioner Support Grant.

10. If you receive a grant from us, you might be invited to complete a questionnaire or take part in an interview as part of our self-evaluation activities. Participation is entirely voluntary.
11. The decision of the Froebel Trust Council will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough, fair and informed assessment process. The Trust reserves the right not to enter into any correspondence about the assessment process and/or any subsequent monitoring procedures.
12. We are here to help. If you experience any problems with the online application portal or have any questions about eligibility that are not covered in our FAQs, please email us and we will respond as fast as we can. Please write to office@froebeltrust.org.uk for the attention of Victoria Arneil, Programme Manager (Grants & Events).