

Frequently Asked Questions



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Change Schools Frequently Asked Questions



Background information

1. What is the Change Schools Programme?

Creative Partnerships is the Government's flagship learning programme, managed by the national organisation Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE), which aims to transform the lives of children and families by harnessing the potential of creative learning and cultural opportunity.

The Change Schools programme is one of the three Creative Partnerships School Programmes launched in 2008.

It enables schools to enter into a 3-year partnership arrangement that can radically transform the ways in which the school operates, placing creativity at the heart of its ethos and operation.

2. Does my local authority know about the Change Schools Programme and support it?

Creative Partnerships works closely with Local Authorities to ensure that its programmes in schools are fully aligned with local priorities and strategies associated with the Every Child Matters agenda. Local selection panels usually include a local authority representative and Local Authority advisers work closely with local programmes ensuring broader developments contribute to shared agendas.

3. Who do I need to contact to find out more?

In the first instance please refer to the Change Schools' prospectus and this FAQ paper. You can download copies www.creative-partnerships.com/cs. If your question is not answered, contact your Area Delivery Organisation. Details of Area Delivery Organisations can be found on the Creative Partnerships website www.creative-partnerships.com

Applications and selection

4. Why can't any school apply to become a Change School?

The Change Schools Programme is targeted at schools in areas facing significant challenges. Creative Partnerships has an established track record in working in disadvantaged communities and improving outcomes for many of the most deprived children and young people in the country.

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Local Creative Partnerships Area Delivery Organisations establish particular selection criteria in close partnership with Local Authorities in order to meet the needs of communities in the geographical area in which they work. There is also a set of strictly applied national criteria set out in the Change Schools Prospectus.

5. Can a cluster of schools apply to the Change Schools Programme?

No. The application must come from one school that is committing to a long-term programme of whole school change. However, if that programme involves working in a cluster of other schools, this is not considered a problem, as long as the cluster is viewed as a means of the individual school bringing about sustainable change in itself.

6. How do I apply to the Change Schools programme?

Applications are submitted to your Area Delivery Organisation through the Creative Partnerships Projects Database (CPPD, <https://creativeweb.creative-partnerships.com/>).

Application deadlines are set by each ADO. You should get in touch with your local ADO as they will be able to tell you what their application timetable is for the year, and whether there is any particular local eligibility selection criteria that will be applied either now or in the future. You will also be able to check what funding rounds are currently open via the CPPD.

7. Who makes decisions at each stage?

A local selection panel shortlists schools for progression to the second stage, which involves an interview. The panel will usually be made up of:

- Staff from your Area Delivery Organisation
- A local authority representative
- A representative from the cultural sector
- A representative from the board of the local Area Delivery Organisation

8. Can we include other information with our application, for example: Ofsted reports, evaluation and documentation, photographs, DVDs?

The only additional information at this stage is your self-evaluation form (SEF) and your School Improvement plan. If your school progresses to the second stage, you may wish to use other information to support your case during the interview.

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9. What support can our Creative Partnerships Area Delivery Organisation give to help us write our Change School bid?

Area Delivery Organisations will arrange briefing sessions and short face-to-face or telephone surgeries for prospective applicants. They will endeavour to answer questions or refer you to further information, but as they will be involved in the selection process, are unable to comment on draft applications. Please be aware that their capacity to respond is limited, as they will be managing existing programmes. We therefore advise you to refer in the first instance to the Change Schools prospectus, and these FAQs on www.creative-partnerships.com/cs to see if your question is answered **before** contacting your Area Delivery Organisation.

10. Can the Creative Agent currently working with us help us write our Change School bid?

Yes, your current Creative Agent may act in an advisory capacity, although it is essential that your school is the genuine author of the bid. Your application must demonstrate that your school has the internal capacity and commitment to become a successful Change School.

11. Can an unsuccessful school appeal if they are unhappy with the decision?

Please contact your ADO for local appeals procedures.

All applicants will receive written feedback, which will not only help with future reapplications but will also be of value to the school more generally. If you wish to complain about any stage of the application process, again, please contact your Area Delivery Organisation for their complaints procedure.

Funding

Please note that detailed guidance on the use of funds will be made available to schools once selected.

12. What can Creative Partnerships funds be used for?

Creative Partnerships funds should predominantly be used to cover the fees of creative practitioners and other external partners. In addition, funds can be used for materials, transport costs and small items of equipment related to the programme. Disproportionate requests for capital equipment will not be allowed within project proposals.

13. Can project activity take place after school?

While it is understood that some project-related activity may happen after school, project activity should be delivered as part of lessons and activities during the school day and integrated into the timetable, in order to contribute to the development of innovation in curriculum development and delivery.

14. If £15,000 per year is an average amount, (matched with £5000 of the school's own money), how will exact levels of Creative Partnerships funding be determined?

Actual levels of funding for each Change School will be based on the size of the Change School and other factors relating to the planned programme and local conditions.

15. Does the 25% contribution to programme costs need to be cash or can it include in kind support?

The school's contribution **must be in cash**, although additional support in kind is also encouraged. Creative Partnerships believes that the anticipated annual contribution of approximately £5000 represents excellent value for money, considering the further investment of £15,000, together with Creative Agent time valued at approximately £3,750, plus access to a variety of high quality professional development and networking opportunities.

If the Arts Award¹ forms a part of your project, then all advisor and moderation fees paid by the school can be set against the school's 25% contribution provided that the award is a by-product of a project that meets the Change Schools project criteria (i.e. not a project in itself) and that at least part (if not all) of the award is rooted in the Change Schools project. If you want to find out more about the Arts Award, please contact your regional coordinator. Contact details can be found at: <http://www.artsaward.org.uk/centre/lookup.php>

There are standard fees for advisor training and moderation which can be found at <http://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=1378>

16. Can the 25% school contribution pay for supply cover?

Only in certain circumstances. Creative Partnerships works to develop sustainable models of programme development that lead to creative approaches

¹ <http://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/>

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to teaching and learning being fully incorporated into the way in which the school operates. Change Schools are expected to make provision for staff to be regularly released to coordinate, plan and evaluate as part of their core commitment. However, up to 10% of the school's total programme budget may be factored into project proposals for supply cover for teachers (apart from the Creative Partnerships School Coordinator) to be released for planning, evaluation and professional development.

17. How will the schools' 25% contribution be evidenced?

This will be made clear within the signed partnership agreement between the school and the Area Delivery Organisation and the project budget forms for each of the projects that make up the school's overall programme. An annual process of auditing programme budgets will confirm that money has been allocated and spent correctly.

Creative Agents

18. Who assigns Creative Agents to Change Schools?

Creative Agents will be allocated to Change Schools by Area Delivery Organisations who have an in-depth knowledge of the skills and capacities of Creative Agents, thereby enabling them to match Creative Agents to schools' needs. If your school is already working with a Creative Agent and you wish to continue this partnership, you should discuss this with your local Area Delivery Organisation. You need to be sure that the Creative Agent will be able to provide the right balance of challenge and support to your school throughout the process.

19. An excellent Creative Agent has supported our school since we joined the Creative Partnerships programme. If successful in applying to become a Change School, can we continue to work with the same Creative Agent?

There is no reason why you should not continue working with a Creative Agent who already has a good relationship with your school. You will need to demonstrate that the Creative Agent will offer an appropriate level of advice, support and challenge to enable your school to continue to extend and develop practice.

Monitoring, evaluation and research

20. How will the Change Schools projects be monitored and evaluated?

There will be a common planning and evaluation process, and monitoring procedure, which will be applied to all projects across all schools in receipt of Creative Partnerships funding. Schools will be required to report on their income and expenditure as part of this process.

Change Schools should reflect their status in their SEF, and Creative Partnerships will therefore give weight to the comments that Ofsted make on inspection.

Other questions

21. What age range is the programme targeted at?

Reception to year 13. Schools with a foundation unit would not be expected to exclude nursery children from the programme. Some Area Delivery Organisations will include a small number of nurseries in their programme but no more than 10% of learning settings in an Area Delivery Organisation's portfolio can be nurseries.

Further questions

As the Change Schools Programme develops, further questions will emerge from schools and Area Delivery Organisations. These, together with answers will be included in an updated version of Frequently Asked Questions, which can be found at: www.creative-partnerships.com/cs