

Funding the School's Outdoor Play and Learning Spaces

Probably the biggest challenge schools face when it comes to developing their outdoor play and learning spaces is cost. Following an audit, schools may have identified areas they wish to improve, but funding these improvements can be a significant barrier.

This guide explores grants and funding options available to schools, and provides suggestions for fundraising activities and events to help cover the costs of developing valuable outdoor play and learning areas.



Grants and Funding Opportunities

PE and Sport Premium

PE and Sport Premium funding can be used for play equipment, particularly outdoor equipment that enhances physical activity and sport provision for students. It can also be used for playground markings. However, the funding should not be used for upgrading existing core equipment that is still functioning.

Schools should use the funding to ensure that their PE and sport provision is inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND, by purchasing adapted equipment or providing additional support.

Schools must demonstrate how they have spent the PE and Sport Premium funding and publish this information online.



Other funding options worth exploring include:

National Lottery Awards for All

Funding available for school and community projects.

Tesco Community Grants

Schools can apply for funding for outdoor projects

Aviva Community Fund

Offers support for school initiatives.

Local Council or Educational Trust Grants

Many councils have small grants available.

Sport England Funding

Can be used for outdoor activity spaces.

PTA or School Friends Association

Work with them to apply for grants.

Crowdfunding via JustGiving or GoFundMe

Set up a campaign for school outdoor improvements.

Business and Community Support

Sponsored Items

Benches, trees, bricks or playground areas.



Corporate Sponsorships

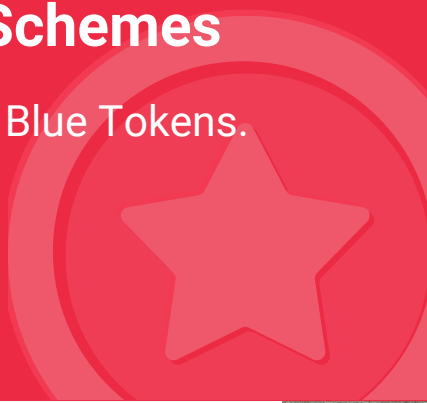
Local businesses fund part of a project in exchange for recognition.

Donated Goods/Services

Ask garden centres or DIY stores for materials or discounts.

Supermarket Token Schemes

e.g. Tesco Blue Tokens.



Themed Fundraising Events

Play & Active Challenges

- **Sponsored Playground Challenge** Pupils complete fun physical tasks.
- **Obstacle Course or 'Playground Olympics'** Charge entry, involve parents too.
- **Outdoor Adventure Trail** Treasure or scavenger hunts with prizes.
- **Mile-a-Day or Readathon** Ongoing sponsorship events.



Creative & DIY Events

- **Mini Enterprise Projects** Pupils sell handmade crafts/products.
- **Miniature Playground Design Contest** Using recycled materials.
- **Art Auction or Mural Sponsorship** Showcase or decorate with pupil work.
- **'Name the Equipment' Competition** Winner gets naming rights.

Themed Days

- **Retro Play Day** Traditional games like marbles and hula hoops.
- **Dress-Up Days** e.g., favourite game character.
- **Lunchtime 'Play-a-thon' or Teachers vs Pupils Games** Fun and interactive.

Nature & Eco-Based Fundraising



**School Garden
Produce or Plant Sale**

**'Adopt a Tree' or Nature
Craft Workshops**

**Sponsored Litter Pick
or Recycling Drives**

Raise money and promote
sustainability.

**Nature Play or
Creative Writing
Events**

Small fees for workshops
or competitions.

Loose Parts Play Fair

Demonstrate and sell
creative play items.

Traditional Fundraising Activities

**School Fair/Fete
or Bake Sale**



**Quiz Night, Film Night,
Disco or Talent Show**

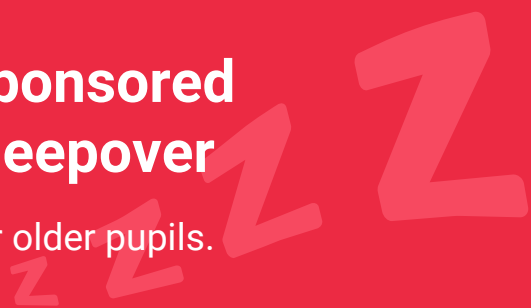


**Car Boot or
Uniform Sale**

**Non-Uniform/
Theme Days**

**Sponsored
Sleepover**

For older pupils.



Raffle/Tombola

Ask businesses for
prize donations.

Seasonal Markets

Christmas or summer
crafts and gifts.

