



Innovation Grants - 2019

Background

1. The Froebel Trust is a UK-based early years education charity which aims to promote the value and relevance of Froebelian principles to the education and learning of children in the 21st century.
2. Friedrich Froebel was a German educator who devised a set of principles and practices which formed part of an interactive education process which he named 'Kindergarten.' The Trust is concerned that children, who through life circumstances have had fewer opportunities and experiences than their peers, are increasingly experiencing an education that emphasises acquiring basic skills, literacy, numeracy and adult-directed experiences; rather than the opportunities to develop creativity and self-activity, which Froebelian principles emphasise.
3. The Froebel Trust promotes the principles developed by Froebel and our vision is a world in which childhood is valued in its own right and each child's capacity and potential are recognised. To achieve this, we advance the following Froebelian principles for the education and care of children up to the age of eight:
 - The integrity of childhood in its own right.
 - The relationship of every child to family, community, nature, culture and society.
 - The uniqueness of every child's capacity and potential.
 - The holistic nature of the development of every child.
 - The role of play and creativity as central integrating elements in development and learning.
 - The right of children to protection from harm or abuse and to the promotion of their overall well-being.
4. As part of meeting its charitable objectives, the Trust offers Innovation Grants to enable the application of Froebelian principles in new areas and environments in order to support children to play expressively and creatively. Projects funded under the Innovation Grants programme should achieve the following outcomes:
 - Children are supported to play expressively and creatively.
 - Organisations develop or improve their understanding of Froebelian philosophy and principles.

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5. Applicants should explain how their organisation will develop their understanding of Froebelian philosophy and principles, and how they will embed a Froebelian approach into their project design. Applicants are encouraged to review the available resources on the Trust's website and also refer to the Trust's previous funded Innovation Grants projects: www.froebel.org.uk/innovations/
6. The Trust has allocated a fund of £40,000 in 2019 for Innovation Grants. Projects may be spread over 1 or 2 years. Please note that we are particularly interested in projects that demonstrate strong value for money and, depending on the range and quality of applications, we will consider funding several small projects.
7. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Monday 24 June 2019**. Any questions should be directed to Deborah Brodie, Grants Manager, on deborah@froebeltrust.org.uk. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by October 2019. Applicants should factor this into project planning, with grant funded projects commencing from November 2019 onwards.

Application criteria

8. In order to be considered for funding, applications for Innovation Grants are required to meet the following criteria:
 - The applicant organisation must be a registered charity. This can include UK based charities, schools and international charities.
 - The project supports children up to 8 years of age to play expressively.
 - The project explicitly applies at least one of the Trust's named Froebelian principles.
 - The project demonstrates how the application of Froebelian principles provide high quality learning and education
 - The project contributes to at least one of the Trust's cross cutting themes. These themes reflect the Trust's vision and priorities and provide an additional focus for our grant-giving. The themes are:
 - Addressing disadvantage and valuing diversity
 - Childhood under stress (focusing on those environments in which young children cannot play freely or with agency)
 - Adult (staff and parental) engagement with young children
 - The applicant must demonstrate how they will build in Froebelian principles to their project design and outcomes. We do not expect applicants to have prior experience of Froebelian philosophy or education. Rather, we are seeking applicants who are sympathetic to the Froebelian principles and whose projects will apply these innovatively in new areas and environments.
9. Applicants are encouraged to review the Trust's five year strategy before applying, here: www.froebel.org.uk/about-us/
10. Grants can cover the costs of:
 - Personnel costs directly related to the project.
 - Direct activity and production costs.

- Project administration costs where these are not already covered by other funding.
- Project publicity costs, including launch event costs.
- Disclosure and Barring Service checks, if required for applicants in the UK.
- VAT on fees where VAT cannot be reclaimed.
- The Trust is willing to pay full cost recovery but will expect that core organisational costs are proportional to the project costs and that the calculation basis is clear.

11. Grants cannot cover the costs of:

- Any salary or other costs that have already been funded from another source.
- Core overheads of the applying organisation not related to the project.
- Expenses incurred in submitting an application.
- Costs arising prior to the start date of the project.

Application process

12. An online application form is on the Trust's website here: www.froebel.org.uk/apply/

13. The online application will ask you to provide:

- General information about your organisation and your project.
- Budget details.
- Data protection information.

14. All eligible applications will be considered via our scrutiny and grants process.

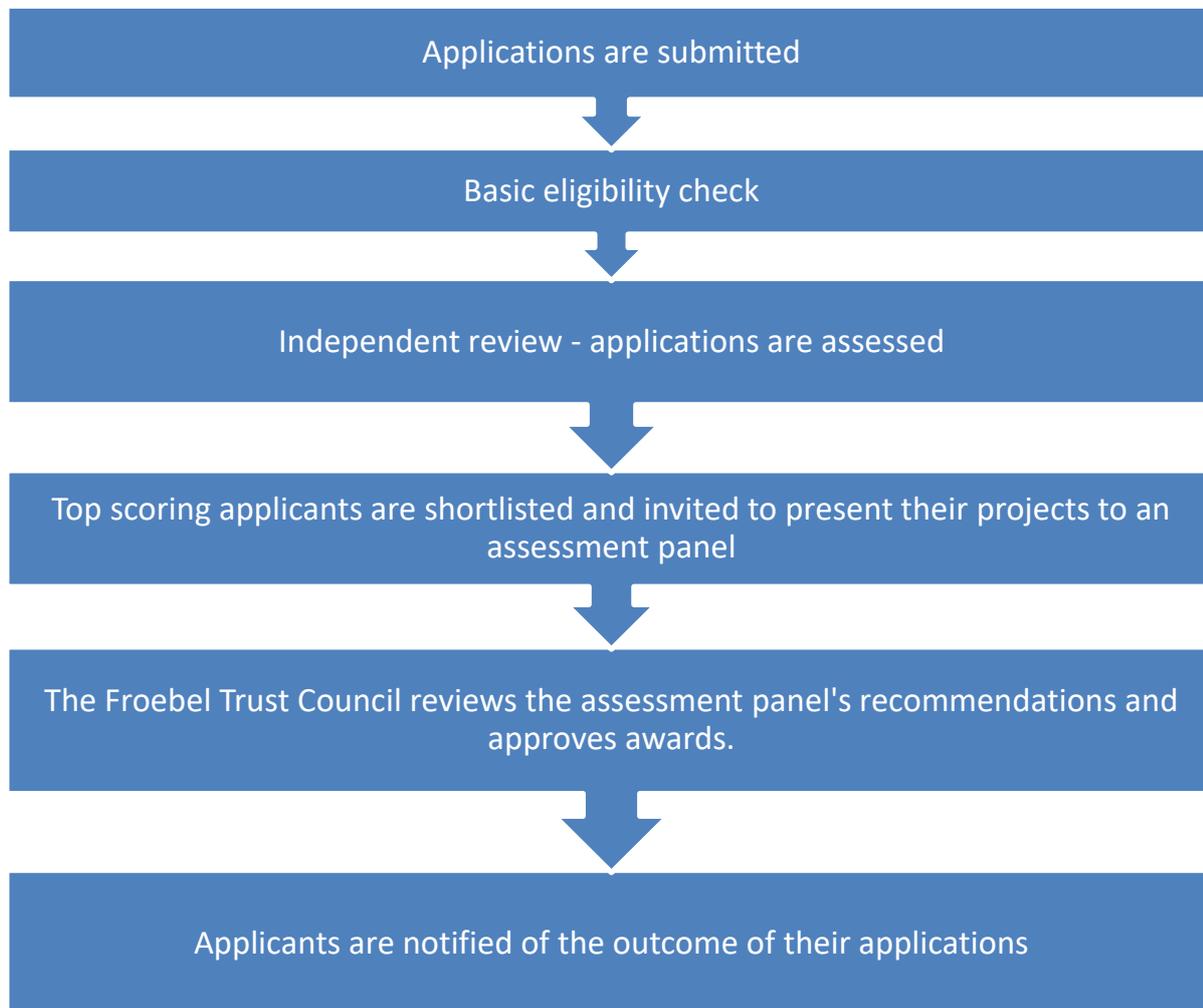
Applications that do not meet our basic eligibility criteria, including those for projects that are unconnected to Froebelian principles, will be rejected.

15. The decision of the Froebel Trust will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough 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.

16. Successful applicants will be required to submit operational and financial monitoring reports during the grant period. The Trust will also conduct a monitoring visit during the project to meet with grant recipients and understand how the project is progressing. Sample monitoring forms can be downloaded from the Trust's website.

Assessment process

17. The table below illustrates the assessment process for each application:



18. The most common reasons why we do **not** approve applications include:

- The proposal does not have enough explicit links to Froebelian thinking or practice.
- The proposal does not clearly indicate how Froebelian principles are embedded into the project design.
- The proposal does not offer strong value for money.
- The proposal does not have direct links to the Froebel Trust's strategic objectives and cross cutting themes.
- The proposal does not indicate how the project will be disseminated and sustained long-term.