



Action Research Grants 2022-23 - Guidance for Applicants

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications portal opens on our website	Monday 4 April 2022
Zoom Webinar for applicants	Wednesday 6 April 2022 6.30pm and Thursday 5 May 2022 8.30am
Deadline for applications:	4pm on Wednesday 11 May 2022
Applicants notified of the final outcome:	Monday 13 June 2022
Projects must begin:	between August 2022 and March 2023

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 Action Research grants, these grants are for education settings and schools in the UK that want to run a project to explore an aspect of their work. These projects will involve a mentor (see below) who will help to guide or support the research process. Applicants do not need to identify a mentor unless they wish to do so.
7. Our Action Research Grants give educators/practitioners the opportunity to undertake an action research project about an aspect of Early Years practice with a Froebelian approach. Most projects will last for one academic year starting in August/September 2022.

8. 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.

9. Applicants will hear on Monday 13 June if they have been selected for the awards. The successful applicants must be in a position to commence their projects between August 2022 and March 2023.

WHO CAN APPLY?

10. Please read this section carefully. If you have any questions about whether you are eligible to apply for an Action Research grant, please look at our FAQs document on our website (froebel.org.uk/grants-and-funding/action-research-grants) before contacting us.

To apply for an Action Research grant, the lead applicant must:

- Work in a setting or school in the UK, which is registered and inspected by the relevant, official body in Scotland, England, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Work with young children (any age from birth to eight years inclusive) and their families and communities.
- Have completed one of the Froebel Trust's Endorsed Courses.
- Be in a leadership role.
- Understand what is involved in a project of this kind and have the capacity to lead it.
- Have full support for the proposed project from the senior manager of the setting or school (if different from the lead applicant).

11. Two or more settings / schools can apply to do a joint project but the lead applicant must meet the criteria above.

12. All Action Research projects will include a research mentor. The lead applicant can act as the research mentor if they meet the eligibility criteria below. Applicants do not have to identify a mentor when submitting an expression of interest unless that person is also the lead applicant. We can help shortlisted applicants to find a mentor.

The research mentor must:

- Have previous experience of designing and carrying out relevant research at Masters level or above.
- Understand what is involved in practice-led or practice-based research, including action research.
- Have previous experience of writing about a research project (e.g. in a dissertation, report or publication) and sharing their learning from that research.

13. 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 THE FUNDS CAN BE USED

14. Action research grants are likely to be up to a maximum of £5,000 inclusive of VAT or other charges, where applicable.
15. The grant is intended to cover direct project costs, such as staff time (including research mentor time) to work on the project / supply cover for project staff; and a small amount for materials or resources associated with project work.
16. The budget should include research mentor time, even if a mentor has not been identified. We would expect to see at least one hour of mentor time for every project month, even if a mentor has not been identified. The mentor might give more time in busier project months and less (or none) in the quieter months.
17. The cost of resources or materials must be less than 20% of the total project budget.
18. Successful applicants will need to submit an original bank statement and financial records for their organisation (for our due diligence) before an award can be confirmed and any money paid.
19. Project funds awarded by the Froebel Trust must be ring-fenced and used only for the stated purposes.

HOW TO APPLY

20. All applications must be submitted via our online portal, which allows you to save your progress and return to it later.

The deadline for applications is 4pm on Wednesday 11 May 2022 and late applications will not be considered.

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 Officer (Grants) by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk.

The online form asks about:

- Your project (what you want to research, why, what you plan to do and hope to achieve)
- A timeline for the project
- Evidence of the lead applicant's Froebelian qualifications and details of who will be involved
- A budget that indicates how the grant will be spent

21. Applications will only be accepted through the online portal via our website:

www.froebel.org.uk/grants-and-funding/action-research-grants

22. After submission, all applications are checked against our eligibility criteria and those that meet the criteria are sent for independent review by experienced scrutineers who assess an application against our scoring matrix. Applications will be assessed according to the rationale and importance of the topic, soundness of the design and methodology of the work proposed, consideration of

ethical issues, environmental impact and potential to benefit children / families / educators and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of Froebelian education.

23. Applicants will hear the outcome by mid-June 2022 and those who have been successful may be asked to provide additional information (according to reviewers' feedback) and / or helped to find a suitable mentor. When successful applicants are notified initially, a grant offer may be conditional on any outstanding issues being addressed satisfactorily.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

24. Successful applicants will be asked to sign our Grant Offer document and due diligence will be carried out, requiring the lead applicant's organisation to supply financial and other information before the grant is confirmed and any funds can be paid.

25. Grant recipients are expected to write an end-of-project report for the Trust, which will be published on our website and will need to provide a reconciled statement of expenditure.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. We offer a two workshops via zoom to answer any questions about the application process. These will be held on 6 April 2022 at 6.30pm and 5 May 2022 at 8.30am, please note this will be a zoom meeting and all potential applicants will be visible to one another. If you would like to sign up, please email: office@froebeltrust.org.uk no later than 4pm on 5 April / 4 May.

29. If you experience any problems with the online application portal or have any questions about eligibility, please email office@froebeltrust.org.uk for the attention of our Programme Officer, Valeria Scacchi.

30. 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.

31. 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.