

Early Years and Childcare capital and revenue grants programme 2021-2022

Oxfordshire County Council has a limited budget with which to allocate grants to providers. The main focus is to support vulnerable children and also to ensure there are enough places in the County for those families wishing to take up places.

Places are delivered through a mixed market of providers.

Aims

Through the grant programme we aim to:

- Support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children
- Secure sustainable, flexible, affordable and high quality early years and childcare provision which meets local need or addresses a supply gap
- Encourage a business approach to running provision.

Eligibility

Providers eligible to apply include:

- Maintained nursery schools and classes
- Academies with nursery provision
- Private and voluntary providers
- Childminders

Potential new providers are invited to apply if a gap in the market can be shown at the outset.

Investment priorities

Providers rated good or above by Ofsted and whose project supports vulnerable children will be given priority for funding.

Tick all that apply	Key Investment Criteria
	The project will pay for additional resources to support a child with SEND
	The project will build capacity to deliver the entitlements to children with SEND.
	The provider is offering a place a term before for a refugee child is eligible under the 2 year, universal or extended entitlements.
	The project will provide additional places for funded 2 year olds in areas where there is an identified shortfall.
	The project will provide additional places for universal/extended entitlement 3 – 4 yr olds in areas where there is an identified shortfall.
	Start up funding for out of school provision where a provider can demonstrate a need.
	Providers at risk of closure invited to apply for sustainability funding via the Settings of Concern process.
	Is newly registered or judged good or outstanding by Ofsted

Applications

Successful projects are likely to be those that most closely meet the relevant assessment criteria

Assessment criteria
Supports a vulnerable child or a child with additional needs
Meets the council's investment priorities
Maintains or increases the supply of high quality early years and childcare places (if applicable)
Supports the delivery of the extended early years entitlement (if applicable)
Evidence of a sufficiency gap has been demonstrated (if applicable)
Safeguarding audit has been satisfactorily completed for new non-school managed out of school provision (if applicable)
Likely sustainability is demonstrated (if applicable) – provide 2 year financial forecast
Value for money demonstrated where applicable
There is evidence that alternative sources of funding are not available or not enough
Amount requested shows accurate and justifiable cost predictions or quotes

Unsuccessful applications will be those that:

Do not meet the aims and criteria listed in this document

Do not demonstrate value for money

Are incomplete (these will not be assessed at all).

Please note

The capital programme is not open to general bids. The Council will target funding according to their investment priorities.

Lesser value revenue projects are more likely to be successful to allow the council to fund as many projects as possible. The grants programme will be withdrawn as soon as all the funding has been allocated, even if the programme does not last for a full financial year.