

Putting the Community First

**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

# MAYOR OF LONDON'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

## LONDON SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE FUND

March 2013



The London Schools Excellence Fund is part of the Mayor's Education Programme which follows on from the Mayor's Education Inquiry held between 2011-2012. The Fund is a key mechanism to deliver excellent teaching in all London schools and will work alongside other initiatives including the London Schools Gold Club scheme and the London Curriculum. The Department for Education is contributing £20 million under the Department's education standards programme, with a further £4.25 million from the GLA.

The Fund is based on the hypothesis that investing in teaching, subject knowledge and subject-specific teaching methods/pedagogy, will lead to improved teaching overall, which should in turn improve outcomes for pupils in terms of attainment and aspiration.

## 2.1 The aims of the Fund are to:

- I. Cultivate teaching excellence through investment in teaching and teachers so that attention is re-focused on knowledge-led teaching and curriculum.
- II. Support self-sustaining school-to-school and peer-led activity, plus the creation of new resources and support for teachers, to raise achievement in priority subjects in primary and secondary schools (English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, computer science, physics, history, geography, languages).
- III. Support the development of activity which has already been tested and has some evaluation (either internal or external), where further support is needed to develop the activity, take it to scale and undertake additional evaluation.
- IV. In the longer term, create cultural change and raise expectations in the London school system, so that London is acknowledged as a centre of teaching excellence and its state schools are among the best in the world.

## 2.2 The priorities of the Fund are:

- **English and literacy:** To increase attainment at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 in primary and secondary schools.
- **Mathematics and numeracy:** To increase attainment at Key Stage 1, 2 and 3 in primary and secondary schools.
- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths:** To improve results and numbers of pupils taking separate GCSE and A-Level sciences; biology, chemistry, physics plus other STEM subjects including computer science.
- **Modern foreign and ancient languages:** To improve results and numbers of pupils taking GCSE and A-Level modern foreign and ancient languages.

In addition the Fund will:

- Consider proposals which include the other EBacc subjects, history and geography.
- Support subject specific knowledge-led teaching in the EBacc subjects at primary school.

Finally, the Fund may also make a small number of grants in other subject areas where the intention is to scale up activity to have sub-regional or pan-London impact.

**Applications for funding do not have to cover all of the aims and priorities set out in this prospectus. A successful application may reflect different combinations of the above as well as working across primary and secondary sectors. The objective is to test and evaluate activity that works.**

The aim is to have a balanced portfolio of grants across the Fund, with the main focus on the four priority subject areas within and across primary and secondary schools. We anticipate funding a range of projects and interventions of varying size and scale.

## 3.1 Size of the Fund

The Fund hopes to invest over £24 million to support evidence-based activity led by schools in partnership with other schools and key partners (additional details in Section 4).

The Department for Education has agreed to contribute £20 million towards the establishment of this Fund with a further £4.25 million from the GLA.

We wish to begin funding the majority of activity during 2013. To achieve this we encourage all applicants to consider putting forward their application in the summer term of 2013.

## 2.2 Funding Rounds

**Round 1 – Grants from £75,000 to £500,000 per year**

**Round 2 - Grants from £30,000 to £75,000**

This is a smaller level of grant funding which will have a one-stage application process. The Fund aims, priorities and core requirements remain the same. Activity can run over one or more school terms and one or more academic years up to July 2015.

Applications will need to cover at least two schools and carry out further evaluation, building on existing evidence. This is an opportunity for something which has been working well in one school to be tested more widely with partner schools, or to apply an approach which has worked successfully elsewhere.

There is a rolling programme and applications will be assessed within 10 weeks of receipt.

**Round 3 – Details will be confirmed in autumn 2013**



## 3.5 What will the Fund pay for?

Payments will be quarterly in arrears with evidence of achieving project milestones required in the quarterly monitoring reports. The Fund can be used for new or expanded activity; it will not duplicate or replace existing funding. The activity must take place within London. The funding is for revenue expenditure only.

The Fund will **NOT** cover:

- General leadership support and training for head teachers and senior management teams
- Support for generic teaching methods and practices, i.e. not subject specific
- Support for non-academic teaching activity, such as pastoral care training, support for vocational training, employability skills, careers advice and work experience.



Launch 27 March Call for Round 1 Applications	<b>Stage 1</b>	Stage 2	Delivery to commence from
	<b>Application deadline dates</b>	Full Application Deadline	
Bidding windows	<b>29 April 2013</b>	28 June 2013	September 2013
	<b>17 June 2013</b>	30 August 2013	October 2013
Round 2	June 2013 – details published		
Round 3	Autumn 2013 – details published		

A copy of the **Prospectus** detailing the criteria, core requirements and process for applications, the **Stage 1 Application Form** and a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** are now available on the GLA website:

[www.london.gov.uk/londonschoolsexcellencefund](http://www.london.gov.uk/londonschoolsexcellencefund)