THE COMMUNITY LIFE FUND – Year 3 (2021/22 projects)

May 2021

1. Introduction

The Community Life Fund was created by the Board of Education to enable church schools across the Diocese of St Albans to apply for grant funding to support activities that promote creative and innovative approaches to worship, prayer and the development of community. The Fund awards grants totalling up to £20,000 per year for six years from its creation.

In this third year, following the months of uncertainty and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of 2021/22 projects that will be supported by the Fund has been altered. The Board has, throughout this period, celebrated the extraordinary work that has gone into responding to the many challenging demands you have faced to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your pupils, staff and families, to hold your communities together, and to maintain quality of learning. Responding to what it feels are the most pressing needs at this time, the Board will prioritise projects that support wellbeing and reflection, promote hope, and enable the renewal of aspects of school life that have been sorely missed.

In order to best manage this, project categories have been amended and the maximum grant amount has been adjusted so that a greater number of schools may benefit from the available funding.

2. Funding streams

Wellbeing:

- Strengthen staff community (e.g. brighten the staff room, purchase books for book clubs …)
- Rebuild a sense of community amongst children and young people (e.g. buddy schemes, group-play equipment and resources …)
- Support parental wellbeing (drop-in sessions, pop-up cafés, literacy/numeracy workshops …)

Worship:

- Bring a sense of renewal to Collective Worship
- Establish and/or expand pupil-led worship groups
- Purchase Collective Worship resources linked to reflection, commemoration and hope.

Reflection and remembrance:

- Support spiritual reflection and remembrance at home, at church and in school (reflection spaces …)

3. Awards and practicalities

> **The application round for Year 3 grants will begin on Monday 24th May 2021 and will remain open until Wednesday 1st December 2021.**
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> *Applications will be considered on the 15th of each month (or closest working day after the 15th) and applicants will be informed of the outcome within the following week.*

a. Funding will not be systematically repeated on an annual basis.

b. The maximum funding for any one project will be £150.

c. Staffing costs will not be considered for funding.

4. Conditions for applications

a. Applications can be made by diocesan Church of England schools, academies and churches working in partnership with their local schools.

b. You may apply for up to three distinct projects, totalling a maximum of £450 for the year.

c. You may make up to three submissions over the entire application period (18th May to 1st of December), not exceeding the £450 overall limit for the year.

d. Two or more schools can apply in partnership to cumulate grants for a common project.

5. Impact report

An impact report will be required following a grant award. Evidence of impact should be recorded within your SIAMS SEF and should include how the outcomes of your project or activity are rooted in your school's Christian vision, and what difference the project/activity has made to pupils/families/staff.

An online report form will be set up on the Community Life Fund's webpage and we will circulate that link once it is available.

In view of the context of the past few months, the timescale for impact reports regarding previous years' projects has been extended, and the Schools Team will be in touch with schools individually about this.

6. How to apply

Applications are submitted through the fund's online application form. The link for this is https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/community-life-fund-application/

The form will be live from Monday 24th May to Wednesday 1st December 2021.

Please email schools@stalbans.anglican.org or call 01727 818170 if you have any questions or would like to discuss an application.