

Summary

Children with high learning potential sometimes need specialist provision in or out of school to nurture their potential and encourage them to flourish. This provision can be expensive and families may not be able to pay for this without support. This advice sheet is about grants, funds and scholarships which may be available to help pay for a high learning potential child's learning.

Potential Plus UK itself is a small charity sustained mainly by fundraising. We are not in a position to offer financial help for tuition, private tutoring, personal projects or the like. However, there are resources you can consult if you need financial help.

Grants

Grants are sums of money paid to support the child or family from Charitable Trusts or other grant-giving trusts. They are normally paid because the child or family meets the charitable objectives of the organisation in some way. These are normally stated in the organisation's terms of reference.

Some schools offer grants to children of clergy, teachers, members of the armed forces, etc. Some give help to children of former pupils, to single parent families and orphans, or concessions for brothers and sisters.

Grant-giving Trusts

Educational trusts help with school fees in some cases of genuine need and with some specific categories, such as orphans, children of the clergy, missionaries and teachers. Genuine needs recognised by grant-making trusts include:

- Boarding needs – where the home environment is unsuitable because of the disability or illness of the parents or of siblings.
- Unforeseen family disaster – such as the sudden death of a parent when a child is already at school.
- Need for continuity when a pupil is in the middle of an examination course and a change in parental circumstances threatens withdrawal from school.
- Need for special education where there is a genuine recognised learning difference which cannot be catered for within the state sector and which causes the child severe distress and/or is coupled with social problems.

Grant-making trusts maintain that special educational needs are the responsibility of local education authorities and are able to help only in the most severe cases. The desire for an independent education which you cannot afford to buy for your child will not suffice as a reason to apply to a grant-giving trust. Such applications will be rejected.

Parents can also ask their local library for information on local charities, whose funds tend to cover uniform, equipment, and essential school expenses rather than fees. They could also ask employers, their unions and other organisations to which they belong whether there are any relevant benevolent funds.

Sources of Information for Grant Giving Organisations

The Guide to Educational Grants 2020/2021 by Ian Pembridge, published by the Directory of Social Change. This book lists over 800 local and national sources of financial help for school children and students, with sources of help classified by the type of need (i.e., who you are and what you are trying to do), by the occupation of parents and by general subject. The contents, introduction, and brief guide of how to use the directory is available at www.dsc.org.uk. As the directory is expensive to buy, you may be able to view it in your local library, ask your local educational advisor or citizens advice bureau. Note that from time to time this guide is updated and the name may change slightly. Also published by the **Directory of Social Change: *The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need, Youth Funding Guide, The Directory of Grant-Making Trusts***, and the funding website, www.fundsonline.org.uk.

Educational Trusts Forum educational-grants.org is an association of educational trusts that work together and individually to give young people the best start in life through supporting their home circumstances and facilitating a suitable education.

Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation www.royalspringboard.org.uk helps by providing grants and boarding school places for children aged 7–13 who are suffering from neglect, trauma or are at risk within their home or community environment. Their address is 6th Floor, Minster House, 42 Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7AE, telephone: 01932 868622, email: admin@royalspringboard.org.uk.

Association of Charitable Foundations www.acf.org.uk gives advice for individuals and organisations seeking funding from UK Trusts.

Buttle UK www.buttleuk.org helps children and young people in poverty. They have offices in England (020 7828 7311), Scotland (07922 426476), Wales (014 4340 8209) and Northern Ireland (028 87746778); email: info@buttleuk.org.

Fashion and Textile Children's Trust offer support to young people whose parents have previously worked or are currently working in the UK fashion, textile, retail and manufacturing industries. They warmly welcome applications from parents who may need financial support for a

range of different educational or welfare needs for their children. Further details can be found on their website: www.ftct.org.uk, tel. 07753 605367.

Scholarships

A scholarship is awarded for academic promise or on the basis of special ability in music, art, some other specialism or all-round merit. Some schools give awards for drama, sport, design and technology.

Scholarships vary in value but rarely cover the whole fees; they might be worth as little as 5 per cent of the school fees. In general, schools now limit scholarships to a maximum of half the value of the school's fees, any extra being awarded strictly subject to the family's need. Parents should find out from the school what scholarships are offered, and how much they are worth so there is no disappointment if the remainder of the fees is unaffordable if a child wins one of the smaller awards.

Most scholarships are awarded by senior schools, on entry at 11, 13 or to the sixth form. They may be awarded on the basis of special scholarship examinations or on performance in the school's own entrance examination. Past papers are available from many schools, which will give an idea of the standards demanded. It is recommended to take advice from the head of the child's present school about the chances of success.

Scholarships and bursaries are rarer at primary schools, though a surprisingly large number of prep schools do offer some awards. For more information about the independent schools in a local area, contact the **Independent Schools Council** www.isc.co.uk at First Floor, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU or telephone: 020 7766 7070.

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust www.arkwright.org.uk encourages high ability 15 and 16 year-olds to take up engineering or technological careers by awarding scholarships to those committed to studying BTEC Level 3 in Engineering, A levels (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or Higher/Advanced Higher (Scotland) in at least one of the following: Computer Science, Design and Technology, Engineering, Science, Physics or Maths.

Bursaries

A bursary is a grant, normally from individual schools, to help pay the fees. It is usually awarded after a means test of family income. Unlike a scholarship, it is not usually based on a competitive examination.

Sources of Information on Bursaries

Bursaries for Master Classes

Bursaries are available for very able young people to attend Master Classes and courses in various subjects. Alternatively, schools may be able to contribute to the cost of such courses.

Tomorrow's Achievers www.tomorrowsachievers.co.uk have their own trust, The Tomorrow's Achievers Educational Trust www.tomorrowsachievers.co.uk/apply-for-a-grant that can assist young people whose parents do not have the resources to pay for their master classes and Gift Courses (see below) without assistance.

Gift Courses giftcourses.co.uk is a provider of courses for the exceptionally able, with a history of more than 30 years. They can provide financial assistance for their courses to families who need it.

Sources of Funding for The Arts

Regional Arts Councils can support individuals across all genres of the arts:

- Arts Council England www.artscouncil.org.uk
- Creative Scotland www.creativescotland.com
- Arts Council of Wales www.arts.wales
- Arts Council of Northern Ireland www.artscouncil-ni.org
- Isle of Man Arts Council www.iomarts.com

Dance & Drama Awards

The Dance and Drama Awards are scholarships funded by the government and they offer greatly reduced tuition fees and help with living and learning costs at some of the leading private Dance and Drama training providers in England. These awards are for individuals who want to become professional dancers, actors or stage managers and the demand for them is high. The government website shows a list of schools with DaDA places www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards.

There is a separate scheme for children aged 8-19 called the Music and Dance scheme, your child must be aged 8-19 to be eligible for the music schools and aged 11-19 to be eligible for the dance schools. This scheme can help parents pay fees and boarding at several specialist independent schools, which are centres of excellence in their field. Information is accessible on the Department for Education website www.gov.uk/music-dance-scheme but students should apply direct to the schools.

Music

Awards for Young Musicians (www.a-y-m.org.uk, tel.0300 302 0023) gives talented young instrumentalists, vocalists, songwriters, producers and composers the opportunity to realise their full potential by giving means tested annual financial awards and advice. Awards are used towards musical costs such as tuition, instrument costs but can also be used for mentoring and workshops with professional musicians, tickets to concerts and performance opportunities.

Help Musicians UK (formerly the Musician's Benevolent Fund) (www.helpmusicians.org.uk) supports musicians at all stages of their careers.

Hattori Foundation (www.hattorifoundation.org.uk) assists exceptionally talented instrumental soloists aged 15-20 who are resident in the UK and whose talent and achievements give promise of an international career.

The British and International Federation of Festivals (www.federationoffestivals.org.uk). Individual festivals and music events often try to help out the young performers and contestants and some offer award bursaries to winners to participate in their courses.

Source of Funding for Sport

Sport England (www.sportengland.org, tel.0345 8508 508), helps people and communities across the country create a sporting habit for life. They invest in organisations and projects that will get more people taking up and continuing to play sport and creating opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport through sports clubs, voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, schools, colleges and universities.

To give feedback on this advice sheet, please go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/advicesheetfeedback