

Community Area Grants

Mansion House Playgroup

1. Which type of grant are you applying for?

Community Area Grant

2. Amount of funding required?

£0 - £500

3. Are you applying on behalf of a Parish Council?

No

4. If yes, please state why this project cannot be funded from the Parish Precept

5. Project title?

Mansion House Preschool Playgroup new ICT facilities

6. Project summary:

The ICT facilities at Mansion House are not up to date. Our Computer Towers are significantly outdated and are not performing adequately. There are currently no other ICT facilities apart from these desktop computers. We would like to raise money to purchase two new PC towers and two small tablets. These will encourage the children to develop early ICT skills and to be able to use educational games and stories to aid their learning in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

7. Which Area Board are you applying to?

Corsham

Electoral Division

Corsham Town

8. What is the Post Code of where the project is taking place?

SN13 9HS

9. Please tell us which theme(s) your project supports:

Children & Young People

Technology & Digital literacy

If Other (please specify)

10. Finance:

10a. Your Organisation's Finance:

Your latest accounts:

08/2012

Total Income:

£95154

Total Expenditure:

£95148

Surplus/Deficit for the year:

£6

Free reserves currently held:**(money not committed to other projects/operating costs)**

£0

Why can't you fund this project from your reserves:

We have a ring fenced contingency fund of 21,500 (based on three months running costs) and a ring fenced redundancy fund of 20,908 (based on current staffing levels this is currently 6,092 short of the requisite 27,000) so we have no free reserves held at present.

We are a small community group and do not have annual accounts or it is our first year:

10b. Project Finance:

Total Project cost		£877.90		
Total required from Area Board		£438.95		
Expenditure (Itemised expenditure)	£	Income (Itemised income)	Tick if income confirmed	£
27	298	Town Council grant		439
2 PC Towers	580			
Total	£878			£439

11. Have you or do you intend to apply for a grant from another area board within this financial year?

No

12. If so, which Area Boards?**13. Please tell us WHO will benefit and HOW they will benefit from your project benefit your local community?**

Mansion House Preschool Playgroup (the Playgroup) currently has 73 children attending (22nd June 2013). The vast majority of them from Corsham town, though with a minority with parents who work in Corsham. We usually take children from two and a half until they are school age. So the playgroup takes on new children often as the older ones transition to primary school. The aims of the playgroup include to "To provide a...stimulating environment in order to build a solid foundation for children" and to enable them to "develop and fulfil their potential". The playgroup does this well in a learning through play approach

providing the children a plethora of different media and experiences to help them in their development. The playgroup follows the Early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework which states under “creative development” that children should explore “different media” and use this to capture different experiences (points 1 and 3 on the EYFS creative development). This includes ICT. Currently we have two computer workstations, one in each room of the playgroup. These have a number of age appropriate games and applications on them. However, these computers are not up-to-date and run slowly. In a recent parent survey conducted by the Committee the Computers were named as the part of playschool enjoyed least by the children who attend. We feel that this is something that needs to be addressed by the playgroup as ICT skills are an important part of education currently and we aim to give these children some computer literacy from which they can build when they move on to primary school. We would like to buy two up-to-date PC towers to replace the ones we have currently, to enable us to run better software and have a faster processing speed. This will enable the children to experience using computers and to play educational games for their age group without becoming frustrated with the computers' poor responsiveness. We would like these computers to be able to have wireless internet as in future we envisage, with online safeguarding in place, using educational online sites like cbeebies. Also we would like to purchase two tablet computers (the smaller, 7 inch ones so they would be easier for small children to hold and use). These would have a range of uses within a session. Firstly they can be used individually and within groups to play educational games to enable children to explore and develop their knowledge of the world using a touch-screen device (for example test their knowledge of shapes). Secondly they could be used with a member of staff to help individual children with their individual targets (for example to aid them in counting by playing a basic numbers game with the guidance of staff). Finally tablet computers could be used by room supervisors during group circle time to show multimedia to the children based on the discussions and themes that week (for example during a theme on Africa, children could look at photos and hear noises made by African animals). This would really enrich the topics and provide visual learners with a more stimulating learning experience than group discussion can provide on its own. With the ever increasing use of ICT in everyday life we strongly feel that the children would benefit from greater access to a greater range of ICT resources and that this would be building a firm foundation for the next, ICT literate generation.

14. How will you monitor this?

The staff interact with children everyday so that the use of the ICT can be closely monitored and included in planning where it would be most beneficial. The staff also attend monthly staff meetings so its use can be discussed then, with staff sharing good practice with each other and identifying if any training is required. The parent survey will be conducted every two years so the committee can monitor whether there is an improvement in the perception of ICT by the children or whether further changes need to be made.

15. If your project will continue after the Wiltshire Council funding runs out, how will you continue to fund it?

This is not something that will need additional funding as it is a one time purchase.

16. If this application forms part of a larger project (eg. building of new village hall), please state what this project is and approximately how much the overall project will cost.

17. DECLARATION

Supporting information - Please confirm that the following documents will be available to inspect upon request:

Quotes:

yes I will make available on request 1 quote for individual project costs over £500 & 2 quotes for project costs over £1000 (Individual project costs are listed in the expenditure section above)

Accounts:

yes I will make available on request the organisation's **latest accounts**

Constitution:

yes I will make available on request the organisation's Constitution/Terms of Reference etc.

Policies and procedures:

yes I will make available on request the necessary and relevant policies and procedures such as Child Protection, Safeguarding Adults, Public Liability Insurance, Access audit, Health & Safety and Environmental assessments.

Other supporting information (Tick where appropriate, for some project these will not be applicable):

And finally...

yes The information on this form is correct, that any award received will be spent on the activities specified.