

The Community Life Fund

THE COMMUNITY LIFE FUND – Year 6

January 2026

1. The Community Life Fund (CLF)

The Community Life Fund was created by the Board of Education to enable church schools across the Diocese of St Albans to apply for 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 its fifth year, after having considered the pattern of past projects and funding requested, we have simplified the application framework, although the areas of school life to which they relate remain broadly the same. We hope you will find identifying what funding stream to apply under more straightforward.

The Board will continue to prioritise projects that support worship, reflection, wellbeing, strong communities and environmental sustainability. Applications may be made by schools or by churches/deaneries working with schools, with a view to strengthening partnerships.

You may submit up to 3 applications at different times during the 2025/26 academic year, however the overall funding granted to any one school will be limited to a total of £750 over that period. You may apply under more than one stream in a single application. Schools are welcome to apply for joint projects.

Please note that due to the limited funding available, these grants are open to non-Church-of-England schools **only** where a member of diocesan clergy works closely with that school community.

2. Funding streams

1. Wellbeing

This category could include projects to:

- Support and strengthen staff community (e.g. brighten the staff room, purchase books for book clubs, offer a weekly sweet treat)
- Promote a sense of community amongst children and young people (e.g. buddy schemes, setting up a choir, group-play resources)
- Support the wellbeing of pupils, especially those joining the school 'in year'
- Support family wellbeing (e.g. drop-in sessions, pop-up cafés, literacy/numeracy workshops)

II. Faith and Community

This category could include projects to:

- Develop and strengthen relationships between parish and school (e.g. facilitating/ resourcing joint worship events)
- Engage or re-engage with children, young people and their families (Parishes and Deaneries)
If your application relates to a larger Deanery project, please contact us to discuss the possibility of funding before applying by calling 01727 818170 or emailing schools@stalbans.anglican.org
- Promote children and young people's interactions with other faiths (e.g. multi-faith events, speakers, purchase of resources)
- Support a practical understanding of diversity and inclusion (e.g. establish links with schools different to yours, organise 'discovery' events and visits).

III. Worship and Reflection

This category could include projects to:

- Resource and bring a sense of renewal to Collective Worship (e.g. purchase fresh worship materials, resource spiritual development activities, establish or expand pupil-led worship groups)
- Support spiritual reflection at home, at church or in school (e.g. set up or refresh prayer areas, create indoor or outdoor reflection spaces).

IV. Care for the Environment

This category could include projects to:

- Support spiritual and theological reflection on environmental issues (e.g. purchase resources to develop awareness of and/or establish initiatives linked to climate change, carbon reduction, care for the planet, use of the *Heart for the Earth* resource...)
- Develop (*school, family and/or church-based*) projects to work towards 'Zero Carbon' ('clean, green and sustainable' goals) in a practical way (e.g. establish environmental action groups).

V. School Family Resilience

The DBE is pleased to be able to extend the period for which the additional funding of £20,000 is available in order to provide direct support and crisis relief to schools seeking to meet the needs of school families severely affected by the increased cost of living or forced displacement (children in school of families who have entered the country as refugees or asylum seekers).

Grants in this category will be allocated in multiples of £75. Schools can apply for a maximum of £375 in a single application, up to twice a year.

If, due to exceptional circumstances, your funding requirements are greater than the £375 limit, please contact us on schools@stalbans.anglican.org or 01727 818170. Funds are limited and, once expended, there will be no capacity to award further grants.. – up to £375, in £75 increments

Please only apply under this category if your school has an urgent need it cannot meet from other resources or LA grant funding.

3. Awards and practicalities

**The application round for Year 6 grants
will remain open until 31st July 2026.**

Applications will be considered on the 15th of each month (or closest working day after the 15th); applicants will be informed of the outcome within 15 days.

- a. Funding will not be systematically repeated on an annual basis.
- b. 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/deaneries working in partnership with their local schools.
- b. You may make up to three submissions over the entire application period, not exceeding the £750 overall limit for the year (*funding streams I to IV*).
- c. 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. The Schools Team will be in touch with schools individually about this.

6. How to apply

Applications are submitted through the fund's online form which you can find [here](#).

Please email schools@stalbans.anglican.org or call 01727 818174 if you have any questions or would like to discuss an application.