

Date 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

**Department:** Slough Early Years Service  
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**Our Ref:** SchnurseriesCAPfund2018

Send to: Primary schools, infant schools, and all-through schools

Dear Headteacher

**Re: School nurseries capital fund**

In July 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) announced a capital bidding round of £30 million to create new high-quality school-based nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds to deliver the government's commitment to build more school-based nurseries, and to boost social mobility. The first few years of a child's life are critical to shaping their future development, and the DfE's ambition is to provide equality of opportunity for every child, regardless of background or where they live, because they know that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility.

The DfE are encouraging schools, academies, multi-academy trusts, educational institutions, charities or any other interested organisations to work closely with each other and in partnership with their local authority to develop an application for capital funding.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty (contained in the Childcare Act 2006 and 2016) to secure sufficient funded early education places for every eligible child in Slough. Slough's most recent Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 outlines a deficit of 1,520 places over the next 5 years with further place development required in specific locations across the borough. To view a copy of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment visit <http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/childcare-sufficiency-assessment.aspx>.

When considering which projects to put forward in an application, the school(s), organisation(s), and local authority involved in developing a project should note the following:

- as part of their bid, local authorities may submit applications for new build nurseries (including modular/temporary buildings) or extensions, refurbishments or conversions of surplus school capacity, or existing buildings including creating kitchen facilities
- Information and communication technology (ICT) hardware or software, fixtures, fittings and equipment (FF&E), and ICT infrastructure (cabling, wireless and switching) are eligible if they form part of a new build project.

All projects received within the application deadline will be subject to a 2 stage project assessment process. Projects will be initially assessed against six pass/fail criteria for stage 1. Please note that "The school must have at least 20% of pupils registered at the school eligible

for Free School Meals (FSM) in their census data from January 2018.” The guidance document ‘School Nurseries Capital Fund Information for applicants’ outlines the success criteria listed in section 3.1 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-nurseries-capital-fund>.

Once the application has been developed and agreed by the school(s), relevant organisation(s) involved, and the local authority, the local authority will then submit the application to the DfE by 22 November 2018. Successful applicants will be notified by 28 February 2019.

If you would like to discuss your initial ideas with the Local Authority please contact Clare Thompson on 01753 476583 or [clare.thompson@slough.gov.uk](mailto:clare.thompson@slough.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ Jarrett', written in a cursive style.

Michael Jarrett  
Service Lead, Early Years and Development