

Improvements to SEND provision in schools - FAQs

Can the same school make multiple applications?

Yes, the same school can make multiple applications for the same lot or for different lots.

Is this opportunity open to early years and post-16 settings?

Yes. Any setting providing publicly-funded education for children and young people with SEND can apply.

Is this opportunity open to community and voluntary-aided schools?

Yes.

Will we get support in managing the project, particularly where we need building work etc?

We know that some schools will need more support than others in managing their projects, and so can provide support as needed. Please flag any additional support needed in your application.

How much is the total funding available?

The total funding available is about £13 million for the capital grants funding and setting up additional specialist provision.

Are sensory rooms / spaces eligible for funding?

Yes. Sensory rooms / spaces and calm room / spaces are all eligible.

How quickly is it possible to have a bid approved? Will it be possible to have funding so that we can have changes in place for start of term in September?

While the timeline has decisions made by the end of term, we know that some schools will need decisions to be made more quickly than this, particularly so that work can take place over the summer holidays. We will be able to approve some applications, particularly smaller applications early. If you would like to be considered for an early decision, please email nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk. We will work as quickly as possible on bids that are urgent.

How do the three different lots link together? Can you make joint applications between the lots and does success in one lot make a school more or less likely to be successful in other lots?

Decisions on each application will be made individually and one application will not make another application more or less likely to be approved. Where one bid adds value to another bid, please include this in an application.

However, we are aware that there may be interdependencies between applications - for example, where capital funding would support new ways of working in a test and learn pilot, or where a test and learn pilot may use space that could otherwise be used for a satellite site. We would ask schools to flag these interdependencies in their application and, if needed, make it clear how the school prioritises the applications.

Can we include garden projects, such as sensory gardens, in the bids?

Yes, you can. Development of play or sensory space in gardens is within scope of the funding.

What is included or excluded in capital funding?

We are following Department for Education's guidance in deciding how capital funding can be used. Here is a link to the guidance: [High needs provision capital allocations guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/).

Acceptable capital projects include projects which will:

- increase the number of places available for pupils with high needs
- adapt and improve facilities to expand their use or make them available to a wider range of needs
- repurpose areas so that they better meet the needs of pupils with SEND
- invest in accessibility to improve access to existing provision for a wide range of pupils.

Is there guidance on the size of newly-created or adapted SEND spaces?

To ensure that your projects create spaces which will be fully functional we recommend that you follow the guidance in the Department for Education's 'Area Guidelines for SEND and Alternative Provision' here: [Area Guidelines for SEND and Alternative Provision](#).

For further information on capital grants funding, please contact:

- nicholas.smith@camden.gov.uk, or
- on test and learn pilots, please contact megan.jarvie@camden.gov.uk.