St Giles & St George Education - Strategy 2024-2027

Our strategic ambition

Our vision is that all children and young people growing up in south Westminster and Covent Garden are able to fulfil their potential.

We create positive change by funding a wide range of learning and educational opportunities that enable children and young people to build their aspirations, skills and confidence – at home, with their family, at school and within their local community. Our priority is to focus on where the need is greatest.

Our aim is to provide funding and support that will enable them to better achieve their mission.

Our identity

We are a small, local, independent funder who really knows our area. We continue to be inspired by the philanthropic motivations of the charity's historic founders and yet we have a modern approach to grant-making.

Our principles – and how these principles will translate into positive action.

Act Flexibly – we will ensure our funding and processes are responsive by:

- Ensuring our grants management processes are proportionate.
- Being pro-active in response to local need.
- Offering a portfolio of different types of funding including unrestricted.
- Facilitating feedback from grantees and applicants about our practices.

Build Trust – we will place trust at the heart of our grant-making by:

- Trusting our grantees to do what's best for their beneficiaries and communities.
- Supporting organisations for the long-term to provide them with stability.
- Visiting our grantees regularly to better understand their services and organisations.
- Be open and transparent about our organisation and our process.

Collaborate Effectively – we foster purposeful partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people by:

- Encouraging networking and collaborations between local organisations.
- Working closely with CYP support sector, particularly Young Westminster Foundation.
- Bringing Westminster funders together regularly to share information.
- Actively engaging with wider grant-making sector to share impact and learning.

Develop Diversity and Inclusion – we are committed to transforming the way we fund by:

- Increasing the diversity within our organisation.
- Improving our understanding of the diversity of the children and young people our funding is benefitting.
- Seeking to be inclusive of organisations from marginalised communities.
- Exploring how children and young people can shape our work and be involved in our decision-making processes.

Our funding model

Funding Approach – we will support both universal and targeted initiatives that fall under our four broad themes: children & families; education & learning; emotional well-being; and youth clubs & activities (plus Christian Education). But to achieve equitable outcomes for children and young people we will focus our resources on those from diverse and marginalised communities who have greater need.

Who we will fund - we value organisations:

- That truly understand the issues which children and young people are facing.
- Where children and young people (and their parents if appropriate) are actively engaged in making decisions about support being provided.
- That are located in (or have strong links with) the area they are delivering in.
- Who have a proven track record of engaging with marginalised communities.
- Who deliver effective services for CYP (we do not focus on new initiatives).

Types of cost - we offer different types of funding:

- Unrestricted core funding to those organisations who meet our thematic and geographic objectives.
- Plus, direct projects costs, organisational costs and development costs depending on the organisation and type of grant.

Beyond funding – we will provide as much support as possible, such as:

- Raising awareness of the activities of grantees.
- Arranging networking opportunities for grantees.
- Offering capacity building grants.

We recognise the climate crisis is here already, and as signatories to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change, we commit to using our grants programme to fund work that addresses the causes and impacts of climate change and to steward our assets for a post-carbon future.