



## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

# Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

to [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk).

## 1. About your organisation

**Name of the organisation requesting the grant**

Rush Common Preschool

**Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is**

Rush Common Preschool is a registered charity providing care and learning to children of Abingdon, between the ages of 2 and 5. There are 27 children places in the Preschool and we are graded good by Ofsted.

Our charitable objects are:

To enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

3.1 offering appropriate play, education and care facilities and training courses, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability

3.2 encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public in and recognition of such needs

3.3 instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

## 2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

We will be moving to the former caretaker's bungalow on the Rush Common School site to provide permanent early learning and play space, with office and toilets for the dedicated use of our Preschool, an organisation that has offered preschool education to children in the area for over 6 decades. It is independent of Rush Common School and always has been but shares the name of the area. The Preschool will become part of Rush Common School in September 2023, following a positive consultation in February with the wider community.

The newly refurbished Preschool building will open on Rush Common School site on 1 September, welcoming current and new children, and their families.

In principle agreement has been received from Oxfordshire County Council to make the changes to the bungalow for Preschool accommodation.

Our Preschool currently offers fully funded places for 2 year olds. These are children who have the greatest need. Funded 2 year olds are those who meet criteria listed in [Free early education for 2 year olds | Oxfordshire County Council](#), and include children who live in a disadvantaged or low income family, have been in care or are disabled or are in need of additional support in other ways. These are among the most needy children in the area and we want to make sure we can provide places for them to attend our Preschool.

Additionally, here is a recognised need for Preschool places in Abingdon as set out in the most recent childcare market assessment, as part of the Pupil Place Plan 2012-2025 here: [assessment \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) Page 21. This states that availability of funded 2 year old places is a difficulty, especially in Abingdon.

It is well known that a strong early start in education gives children a much better chance of success later in the school system, in achieving good qualifications and going on to successful and prosperous adult lives. We will dedicate spaces for a minimum of 6 children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds to attend. We will ensure that these additional 6 places went to the most disadvantaged children through careful liaison with the County Council's Early Years Team and Social Services.

Abingdon Learning Trust is providing substantial investment to support the refurbishment of the bungalow, and we are applying for additional grant funds to make sure that we have as high a quality learning and play environment for our children as possible.

The Trust is making this investment in order to demonstrate its Charitable objects, knowing that investment in early years education has a profound positive impact on children and their families.

Whilst this investment is hugely welcome, as is having dedicated accommodation for our children and families, we need further funds.

We are seeking a grant of £12000.

This is £7032 for items to make the new conservatory, added as part of the refurbishment and giving greater floor area for children, suitable for under 5s. We need to put in heat reducing glazing (£4560), finger guards to 4 doors to stop trapped fingers in opening/closing doors (£513) and 5 radiator covers (£1959).

Although we will be bringing equipment and furniture from our current accommodation – it is well worn due to our having to take it out and put away daily, as we are in All Saints Church Hall. We are also asking for an additional sum of just under £5000 to use to fit out the new refurbished accommodation with new child-sized chairs/tables, outdoor play equipment and internal learning and play resources. With a fresh start in new accommodation, we want to ensure a high quality learning environment and one that will last for years.

We look forward to any support that the Council could provide which would immediately be put to good use in this project benefitting the whole community.

<b>What is the total cost of the project</b>	<b>£181584</b>
<b>How much grant are you seeking</b>	<b>£12 000</b>
<b>What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant</b>	<b>6.6%</b>
<b>How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project</b>	<b>We will use £150 000 from Abingdon Learning Trust reserve; £27,000 from Rush Common Preschool reserve, and grant applications to one other organisation to make up the shortfall</b>
<b>Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down</b>	<b>Prelims - £23587 Demolition/strip out - £12316 Fit out - £62976 Extras (including request for grant here) - £82705</b>
<b>What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years</b>	<b>We have not undertaken any specific fundraising for this project. The opportunity to merge the Preschool with the School has come about through a relationship built last summer to ensure good transition for Preschool children into the School, and the vacant former caretaker's bungalow. The reserve that both organisations are able to invest means that the project can go ahead quickly meeting need now.</b>

### 3. Local benefit.

<b>How many people take part in your organisation's activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.</b>	<b>As members</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>As recipients</b>	<b>Max 54 children between the ages of 2-4 in the Preschool</b>

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an "e" is put after the figure.

All estimates are per year....each year the same numbers can be assumed.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members		10	
- Recipients	50		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	2	8
- Recipients	24est	23est

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	10		
- Recipients	27	27	

## 4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council's vision and at least one objectives.

### 4a. Vision

**To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.**

#### **Our Ethos**

We provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment, where every child can grow as an individual and shine like the stars they are.

We cater for children aged 2.5 – 4 years and offer up to 27 hours per week under the Early Years Entitlement.

Although children can start at Rush Common Preschool when they are 2.5 years old, priority for places will be given to children age 3 plus and for the year before they start school.

We accept most childcare voucher schemes and are set up for tax-free childcare.

Our aims

- Provide high quality care and education for children between 2.5 and 4 years of age.
- Work in partnership with parents to help their children learn and develop.
- Provide a stimulating and fun environment where children feel safe and secure.
- Make a positive contribution to the economic and social well-being of our local community.
- Offer children and their parents a service which provides equality and values diversity.
- Allow children and their parents to experience a very positive transition into school life.

**4b. Objectives**

**1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency**

**2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future**

**3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**

**4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity**

	<p>We offer places to the most vulnerable children which is a shortage in the area and in Abingdon - <a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/assessment">assessment (oxfordshire.gov.uk)</a></p>
	<p>We will allocate a minimum of 6 places, around a quarter, specifically for the most needy children, each year, as identified by OCC and their Early Years Team, and work with their families and external agencies in support of their social and educational inclusion.</p>

## 5. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

NIL

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon

## 6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

Rush Common Preschool is a charity

[Charity overview, RUSHCOMMON PRESCHOOL - 1107176, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission](#)

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£20,929

### Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

Yes

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

Contingency fund is £27,190

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.

No