



## Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

# Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send the following information to [enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk):

- forms A and B, completed in full
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement for your organisation, which should match the payment information on form B

## 1. About your organisation

**Name of the organisation requesting the grant**

**Abingdon Schools Librarians Group** - Abingdon Secondary Schools Joint Reading Initiatives.

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

To run joint reading initiatives on behalf of the Abingdon Secondary Schools. Our aim is to provide enriching reading opportunities for our students and to celebrate reading across the town, together as a community.

## 2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

Six secondary schools (state & independent) in the Town of Abingdon work together to provide joint reading activities across the Town. The school librarians initiate and manage these activities together. The participating schools are Europa School, Fitzharrys School, John Mason School, Larkmead School, Radley College and St Helen & St Katharine School.

There are 2 x key initiatives that we run:

**The YOTO Carnegies Shadowing Program (for Key Stage 3; Year 7 & 8).** We run three joint events which make up the Abingdon YOTO Carnegies Shadowing Program. These include a Welcome Tea, a Quiz and an all-day Forum. Each require refreshments, prizes and guest literary judges and speakers.

**The Abingdon Young Adult Book Awards (YABA) (for Key stage 3+. Year 9+).** We organise an Abingdon Schools Young Adult Book Awards for fiction, led by School librarians in the Abingdon Community. We work together to encourage the participation of students in Key Stage 4 from the 6 participating schools in reading more widely/diversely, encouraging lively debate, discussion, decision making and critical appreciation of books and thus generating a link across the Abingdon Community.

Reading culminates with an inter-school quiz on the books read and students voting for their winner; we invite authors to the events in support of reading too. This is our 5th year of running this initiative.

The grant money would help cover some of the costs of literary/author fees, refreshments and prizes at all of these events, along with the annual souvenir Carnegie pen which the students love to receive. The Yoto Carnegie Shadowing Program and our very own Abingdon Schools YA Awards champion the love of reading across the schools involved, developing literacy and oracy skills, encouraging the expression and sharing of ideas, and promotes empathy and collaboration across our local community through the medium of books.

<b>What is the total cost of the project</b>	£1900
<b>How much grant are you seeking</b>	£700
<b>What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant</b>	37%
<b>How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project</b>	Expenses incurred will be split between all participating schools and covered by school budgets. Each school is responsible for funding the purchase of sufficient books for their school students – this cost is outside of this grant request.
<b>Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down</b>	<p>Approx shared costs £1900. Est = estimated costs</p> <p>Yoto Carnegies (£1,300 Est):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carnegie Welcome Tea –refreshments £100 (Est)</li> <li>• Carnegie Quiz – refreshments (£100), prizes for winners, runners up, and lightning rounds (£150), souvenir pens (£150)</li> <li>• Carnegie Forum – refreshments, prizes, guest literary speakers - £800 (Est)</li> </ul> <p>YA Book Awards (£500 Est)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refreshments &amp; prizes for Quiz/Awards Event (£200 Est)</li> <li>• Guest speaker (author) £400 Est</li> </ul>
<b>What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years</b>	We have sought sponsorship for refreshments from Waitrose, Abingdon & Tesco, Abingdon & been successful on a few occasions. Radley College have offered to host the YABA awards ceremony at their library free of charge.

### 3. Local benefit

How many people take part in your organisation’s activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.

<b>As members</b>	6 x schools & librarians
<b>As recipients</b>	200 secondary students across Abingdon

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.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members		6	
- Recipients	200 e		

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	0	6
- Recipients	80	120

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	6		
- Recipients	160e	200	

### 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 objective.

#### 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.**

Through our initiatives we foster a community spirit developing young persons empathy and collaboration across our local community through the medium of books. The diverse reading lists provide a mix of genres which are both current and inclusive, promoting empathy and exposing our students to other cultures and points of view. Topics have included important issues such as the plight of refugees, the climate crisis, racism, LGBTQIA+ issues, domestic violence, gender inequality and overcoming adversity.

## 4b. Objectives

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

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

<p>By encouraging students across the schools to mix and bond in both key stage 3 &amp; key stage 4 we are helping to develop their sense of community and belonging. The topics they read about will further their understanding of themselves and those around them, building a foundation of understanding and empathy. We believe that by offering these opportunities we are helping to establish a future generation that will be responsible, respectful, and upstanding members of the community.</p>
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3. **To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**

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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 aim to provide collaborative, reading opportunities for disadvantaged and SEND students across Abingdon, and those who may not normally have access to a wide range of reading material. The associated book clubs promote reading for pleasure, social inclusivity and opportunities for pupils to talk about current issues and voice their opinions in a safe environment.</p>
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## 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**

<p>We have previously received:                  2025 - £600                  2024 - £450                  2023 - £550                  2022 - £550</p>
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**Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending**

<p>None</p>
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## 6. About your organisation

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

We are a School Librarian Group who work collaboratively to organise, provide and promote reading initiatives and opportunities for the young people in the Abingdon area.

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

All expenditure is met between us for these 2 x reading initiatives each year between February to June annually.

£0 - Each year one of the schools takes ownership of the shared costs. Subsequently all residue costs/expenses are divided between the schools and settled between us. Each school uses their school budget for the remaining costs and purchase of books (hence we do not have a bank accounts for these).

### Additional financial information

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

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

## 7. Reporting back on your grant

Organisations receiving a grant from the town council are required to provide a written report on their event or project within twelve months of the award date. The report should detail how the funds were spent and how residents of Abingdon are benefitting. The report may be included in any town council publicity, including the website or the Town Crier magazine.

### Declaration

**I declare that the information given in this grant application, both parts A and B, is complete and accurate and that no relevant information has been omitted.**

**I agree that the organisation receiving the grant will report back to the town council within 12 months of the award of this grant on how it has been used.**

**Signature**

*A Kerner-Bignell*

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council community grant application form – part A

**Name**

Angela Kerner-Bignell

**Position with organisation**

Abingdon Schools Librarians group member / Learning Resource Manager, John Mason School – Abingdon Learning Trust

**Date**

28/11/2025