



The Frank Rust Memorial Schools Garden Grant 2026 Application Guidance Notes

Rushmoor Voluntary Services is pleased to offer schools in Rushmoor the opportunity to apply for funding to support the development of gardens that inspire young people to get involved in gardening and growing produce.

The scheme is funded and administered by Rushmoor Voluntary Services, in memory of Councillor Frank Rust, a former Trustee of Rushmoor Voluntary Services, and a deeply committed champion of Rushmoor in Bloom.

The types of projects funded will be those that focus on the creation or development of gardens that create spaces for young people to enjoy the outdoors and learn how they can grow, cook, and share the harvested produce.

About the Fund

The Frank Rust Memorial Schools Garden Grant will be open for one round of funding in 2026. Applications seeking funding up to £1000 can be submitted, but we may not be able to offer you the full grant you've asked for.

The grant cannot be applied retrospectively, but you can demonstrate how the funding will allow you to develop and add value to an existing garden project.

Organisations should not commit themselves to a project or any spending before any decision is made on the award of a grant.

Who can apply

Applications are welcome from all schools in Rushmoor. We encourage schools who were unsuccessful in 2025 to apply for funding this year.

If your organisation has previously been awarded funding from this grant programme, you must clearly demonstrate that you are seeking funds for a new activity within your school garden.

What can be funded?

- A new garden or the development of an existing garden in a Rushmoor School
- Equipment and tools
- Project costs include plants, seeds, soil, gloves

What cannot be funded?

- Core or routine running costs of a group/organisation or contributions towards the cost of on-going activities
- Training of trustees or fundraisers
- Any school curriculum-based activity
- Activities or events which have happened prior to receiving notification of an award
- Applications cannot be made in retrospect

Essential Criteria

- Each school may only submit one application per funding round.
- Projects must be for the creation or development of a school garden project that includes an area for the growing of fruit and vegetables.
- Applicants should demonstrate how young people will be involved in the project and how the produce will be used.

What Criteria will be considered when assessing your application?

- Tell us about your project, is this new or development of an existing garden, tell us about your ideas for the garden, why you want to deliver this project, how the funding will help you achieve your goals, how you will involve your students and how you will use and share the food that is harvested from the garden.

Clear Outcomes

- Tell us what you expect to achieve, how and when it will be achieved and how you will share this with us. For example, before and after photographs and the number of children involved in the project, the type of food grown, how much was shared and to whom.

Grant conditions

- By applying to this fund, your organisation agrees to be part of the Rushmoor Voluntary Services promotion of the fund on the RVS websites and social and local media.
- Funding offers will be subject to the recipients accepting the funding conditions.
- You will need to return a signed acceptance form before we issue your grant.
- You must accept the offer within two weeks, or we will withdraw it.
- The funding must be spent within 12 months following receipt of grant funds.
- A feedback form must be completed after the project has taken place and returned to Rushmoor Voluntary Services.
- All groups/organisations must keep financial records in case there is an audit requirement.
- Any unspent funding must be returned to Rushmoor Voluntary Services so we can redistribute it.
- Receipts should be sent with the feedback report.
- You must carry out the project in a Rushmoor school.
- Successful applicants must display a plaque acknowledging the Frank Rust Memorial Schools Garden Grant has supported the garden. This will be provided by Rushmoor Voluntary Services in addition to the Grant.
- You should acknowledge the funding award from the Frank Rust Memorial Grant in your publicity material and on your website and use the RVS logo which will be provided.
- The grant must be spent in accordance with the purposes for which it was approved.
- Any changes to the project/event must be agreed to by Rushmoor Voluntary Services.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in an unsuccessful application or a request for reimbursement of the awarded grant.

Grant application process

- **1st January 2026:** Grant open for applications.
- **Friday 6th February 2026:** Application deadline midnight.
- **Monday 16th March 2026:** written confirmation of the outcome of applications will be emailed to applicants.

Helping you with your application

- Check through the criteria. Do you meet all the essential criteria? Does your application include a response about everything that will be considered when assessing your application?
- Remember to provide a budget and set out cost for all parts of the project you will use the funding for.

If you would like to discuss an application before completing the form, have any queries relating to your application or would like help filling in the form please contact isobel.nicholson@rvs.org.uk