

Sparks – The Forge Small Grant Scheme



What is Sparks?

- Sparks is a small grant scheme administered by The Forge, the Arts Education Agency for County Durham and Sunderland.
- Sparks is open to schools in County Durham that would like to run an arts project
- Sparks aims to encourage schools to develop arts based programmes with professional artists. The scheme will:
 1. Enable schools to bring professional artists into direct contact with pupils
 2. Promote good practice in the organisation of artist residencies in the LEA
 3. Raise awareness of a range of art forms
 4. Raise awareness of multi cultural arts
 5. Promote innovative arts practice in the LEA
 6. Promote the development of the Artsmark scheme

Application Criteria

Eligible projects will:

- Involve at least one professional artist in the project*
- Enable pupils and teachers to work closely with the artist(s)
- Enable pupils to increase their skills and knowledge in at least one art form
- Assist in increasing the confidence and self esteem of pupils
- Have clear aims and learning outcomes for pupils and teachers
- Have an impact on whole school arts development

*The artist must earn most or all of their income from working as an artist

In addition:

- Schools can submit applications to Sparks individually or on behalf of two or more schools
- Successful schools should spend their Sparks grant in the academic year in which it was awarded
- Schools who have received an award during or before 2004-05 can now make a further application to Sparks
- Schools who are first time applicants and/or schools with limited experience in delivering arts projects/residencies will be prioritised by the awards panel
- The school will produce an evaluation report upon completion of the project

Sparks cannot fund

- Schools who are members of the Cultural Hubs programme
- Supply cover

How much can schools apply for?

- Schools can apply for a maximum of £500
- Each application must show match funding of 50% of the total project costs. The match funding can come from another source e.g. school funds
- Awards will be made by a panel and deadline dates for applications to reach The Forge by are:
 1. Friday 15 June 2007, 12 noon
 2. Friday 19 October 2007, 12 noon
 3. Friday 18 January 2008, 12 noon

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