



WorldWise Global Schools
Global Citizenship Education (GCE)
Grant Call 2025

Applicant Guidelines
School Clusters (Cluster of Post-Primary Settings)

KEY DATES

APPLICATION PERIOD:

Wed 30th April 2025 (Opens) - Fri 6th June 2025 (Closes)

FUNDING PERIOD:

2025 - 2026 Academic Year

SECTION 1: Background

1.1 Who are WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS)?

[WorldWise Global Schools](#) (WWGS) is an Irish Aid programme for Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in post-primary education settings in Ireland and was established over a decade ago. Since then, the WorldWise Global Schools programme has engaged over 500 post-primary education settings. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of post-primary settings engaging in quality GCE by providing a comprehensive range of supports — including our [WWGS Global Passport](#), [grant funding](#), [training and events](#), [resources](#) and [support from our staff team](#). Regionally based [WWGS Education Officers](#) provide direct GCE support to teachers and school leaders in post-primary education settings. WWGS also funds NGOs and education networks to provide GCE support to post-primary education settings.

1.2 What is Global Citizenship Education (GCE)?

Global Citizenship Education (also known as development education) is an approach to teaching and learning that links global and local justice issues. GCE explores the root causes of these issues and equips learners and educators to think critically, build empathy, challenge unjust global systems and take meaningful action towards a kinder, fairer and more sustainable world.

GCE inspires global solidarity by supporting people to fully realise their rights, responsibilities and potential as global citizens in order to take meaningful action for a just and sustainable world. The WWGS [GCE Guiding Principles](#) are critically important and underpin our approach to GCE. You can find more details by clicking on the link and visiting www.worldwiseschools.ie. In addition, we refer all applicants to the IDEA (Irish Development Education Association) Code of Good Practice, whose core principles are highly relevant to post-primary GCE.

1.3 Junior and Senior Cycle Curriculum

WWGS links GCE to the school curriculum, in line with both the Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Frameworks. For more details, see the series of [Subject Guides](#) developed by WWGS to help you approach GCE in the Curriculum and other aspects of school life.

SECTION 2: Eligibility Criteria

2.1 What is a School Cluster?

A WWGS School Cluster comprises a minimum of three post-primary education settings that wish to jointly apply for WWGS funding (with one as the Lead Applicant). This is in order to enable joint GCE activities and peer learning to take place between the post-primary settings in that cluster.

The features that define a School Cluster may be that the participating post-primary school settings have GCE issues or topics of interest in common, have partner school settings in the same partner county, work with a particular NGO, share geographical proximity, or be of the same type of post-primary school setting. A School Cluster may include post-primary settings from anywhere on the island of Ireland.

A WWGS School Cluster will ideally involve some representatives from the participating schools (teachers/students/management) coming together a number of times a year (some online) and ideally at least once at an in-person event, or more if possible.

School Cluster applications should be informed by the following:

1. **Number of Post-Primary Education Settings** – WWGS will allocate funding to School Clusters proportionate to the number of post-primary settings in the cluster (minimum 3).
2. **Whole School Approach** – WWGS requires School Clusters to take heed of the WWGS Global Passport amongst their cluster of post-primary settings. It can either be used as a framework to support post-primary settings in the cluster who are starting their engagement with GCE, or for engaging more deeply in GCE.
3. **WWGS GCE Guiding Principles** – Applicants are expected to demonstrate in their grant applications an understanding of and a commitment to the WWGS [GCE Guiding Principles](#) for post-primary education settings.
4. **Methodologies** – School Cluster applicants are advised to consider a wide range of GCE methodologies (particularly peer learning) in their grant applications.

2.2 How much funding can a School Cluster apply for?

WWGS is making two separate Funds available to School Cluster applicants for 2025/26:

1. Option 1 - School Cluster Fund:

A School Cluster may apply for a grant up to a maximum value of €5,000 under this Fund. The purpose of this Fund is to encourage post-primary settings to collaborate with each other on GCE, with one school acting as the 'lead applicant' for the Cluster. Schools are encouraged to collaborate in a Cluster on their own GCE ideas and initiatives under this Fund (Option 1). Successful applicants under this Fund will be required to complete a Financial Report and an End of Year Narrative Report by May 2026.

2. Option 2 - Digging Deeper School Cluster Fund:

There is a new additional Fund available for 2025/26 called the Digging Deeper School Cluster Fund. Under this new Fund, a Post-Primary Cluster may apply for a grant of between €3,000 and €8,000. The purpose of this Fund (Option 2) is to encourage post-primary settings to collaborate with each other in a deeper engagement in GCE. Further information on the [Digging Deeper model](#) used by WWGS can be found by clicking on the link. This can be used to help you understand what it means to 'dig deeper to get to the root causes' of global justice issues. Successful applicants under this Fund will be required to complete a Financial Report and complete a School Cluster Case Study by May 2026.

School Cluster applicants should note the following:

- Applicants are permitted to apply for funding under both Option 1 and under Option 2 subject to sufficient capacity to undertake both initiatives.
- Under both options, applicants need to carefully consider the level of grant funding being applied for to ensure (if approved) that you would have the capacity to spend it within the 2025/26 school year.
- There is no guaranteed allocation of funding under either Option 1 or Option 2.

2.3 What will WWGS provide funding for?

2.3.1 Global Passport

The WWGS Global Passport provides a broad framework within which School Clusters can scaffold understanding of GCE. School Clusters are encouraged to become familiar with the WWGS [Global Passport](#) categories which may inform your GCE initiatives.

2.3.2 Eligibility Criteria

Please note the following points in relation to eligibility:

(i) The WWGS [Guiding Principles of GCE](#) must be considered in formulating your activities. Ideally your initiatives would reference all or most of our WWGS Guiding Principles, but you may focus on some Principles more than others. Your proposed initiatives must have a **clear and explicit link to global justice issues**.

(ii) In order for initiatives to be eligible for WWGS funding, they must be explored within the **global context and root causes of the issues**, and they must look at the systems and structures that make it an issue in the first place. We will only fund initiatives and field trips that are **strongly aligned** with GCE and that demonstrate a **local to global link**.

(iii) School Cluster applicants may only apply for funding for **initiatives that involve all the post-primary education settings participating in the cluster**, not just the Lead Applicant. It is critically important that any School Cluster application clearly demonstrates the collaborative nature of the proposed project.

(iv) School Cluster applicants may be either brand new clusters coming together, existing clusters and/or expanding existing clusters. We particularly welcome collaborations from DEIS/Youthreach/Gaelcholaistí.

2.3.3 Eligible Activities

Eligible activities and costs for which you can apply for WWGS grant funding as a School Cluster are detailed here under the [Grant Spending Ideas](#) section on our website. Furthermore, to help to give you an idea of some initiatives that have previously been undertaken in schools, please see some of our individual [school case studies](#).

It should be noted that there are NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), some funded by WWGS, and external speakers and facilitators that you could also explore engaging with, subject to their capacity and availability to scaffold your initiative. You will find a list of some [Workshop Providers](#) and [Facilitators](#) by clicking on the appropriate link.

SECTION 3: Application and Appraisal Processes

3.1 Application Process:

- 3.1.1. Applicants must complete an Excel application form. This can be requested by emailing grants@worldwiseschools.ie or info@worldwiseschools.ie. WWGS will provide you with the application form containing the instructions.
- 3.1.2. The Lead Applicant submitting the application will require to be set up with a WWGS online account. The Lead Applicant should login to their **WWGS online account** to attach the completed School Cluster Application in the Google Docs, Notes and Attachments section at the bottom of the page of the 2025/26 application. The declaration should be completed and then the application submitted.
- 3.1.3. If you require any technical support on **completing your application**, please get in touch with grants@worldwiseschools.ie or info@worldwiseschools.ie.
- 3.1.4. Only fully completed 2025/26 applications received by 5pm on the 6th June 2025 will be considered. An email will issue from WWGS to the Lead Contact confirming that the application has been received.
- 3.1.5. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications where possible from July 2025. Contracting with successful applicants will commence from August 2025.
- 3.1.6. Projects can commence at the start of the 2025/26 school year once a signed contract has been returned to WWGS and the school has adhered to any necessary pre-conditions.

3.2 Appraisal Process:

An external Grants Selection Committee will make decisions on funding allocations. This is a competitive grant round and, as such, funds are awarded on the basis of available funding (which may be subject to change each year) and on the basis of established assessment criteria, as set out in the following list.

- 1. Relevance** – this relates to whether the proposed actions are in line with good practice GCE and the WWGS [GCE Guiding Principles](#).
- 2. Capacity** – this relates to the capacity of cluster applicants to deliver on the proposed project and the level of risk, if any, in grant allocation. This also relates to the capacity of cluster applicants to engage in and support GCE.
- 3. Sustainability/Impact** – this relates to the extent to which the application aims to embed and build GCE capacity and have maximum impact on students/teachers/whole-school communities, and indeed the wider community beyond the school cluster. Applications should demonstrate how the school cluster will spread learning beyond just the staff attending the training and students involved in the project. It is important that school cluster applicants are not wholly reliant on any one school who is dedicated and committed to GCE.

KEY DATES

Key Stage	Key Dates
Grant Call Opens	30 th April 2025
Grant Call Opens – Deadline for Submission of Application	6 th June 2025
Appraisal and Notification of Funding Decisions	July 2025
Grants Disbursal	Sept 2025

WWGS would like to thank you for expressing an interest in helping to deepen post-primary level engagement with Global Citizenship Education (GCE).