



**WorldWise Global Schools
Global Citizenship Education (GCE)
Grant Call 2026**

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

KEY DATES

APPLICATION PERIOD:

Mon 20th April 2026 (Opens) - 31st May 2026 (Closes)

FUNDING PERIOD:

2026 - 2027 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. Post-primary education settings include post-primary schools, Youthreach Centres and all other eligible alternative post-primary education settings. For simplification within these guidelines, we refer hereafter to post-primary education settings as 'schools'.

WWGS was established over a decade ago and since then the programme has engaged over 500 schools. The aim of the programme is to increase the reach, accessibility, quality and effectiveness of GCE in the post-primary sector in Ireland. This is achieved by providing a comprehensive range of supports. These include 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 schools.

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.

Global Justice is at the heart of our work in WWGS and the main tenets of this are covered in our [WWGS Guiding Principles](#) for GCE. We embed these principles through the framework of the [Global Passport](#), a tool that enables schools to recognise existing GCE work they are doing and to identify opportunities to expand GCE into all aspects of the school community.

The WWGS Global Passport provides a broad framework within which School Clusters can scaffold their understanding of GCE. All applicants applying under Grant Call 2026 should endeavour to put forward a project clearly informed by the WWGS Guiding Principles for GCE and the WWGS Global Passport. All WWGS-funded School Clusters are required to promote the Global Passport amongst the schools in their cluster. Additionally, a minimum of three schools participating in the cluster are required to submit a 2025-26 Global Passport application, including the Lead Applicant. While we require a minimum of three Global Passport Applications from schools in any cluster, we encourage all schools participating in the cluster to consider submitting a Global Passport application.

SECTION 2: Eligibility Criteria

2.1 What is a School Cluster?

A WWGS School Cluster consists of a minimum of three post-primary schools that come together to apply jointly for WWGS funding, with one school acting as the Lead Applicant. The purpose of forming a cluster is to enable participating schools to collaborate on Global Citizenship Education (GCE) activities and to support peer learning between the schools involved.

Schools may decide to form a cluster for different reasons. For example, they might be interested in the same GCE topics, work with the same NGO, be located near each other, or be under the same patronage. Schools from anywhere on the island of Ireland can form a 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.

Applicants should consider the following factors in developing a school cluster application:

Number of Post-Primary Settings

WWGS funding for School Clusters will depend on the number of schools involved. Each cluster must include at least three post-primary schools. Proposed initiatives must involve all the post-primary education settings participating in the cluster, not just the Lead Applicant. It is critically important that School Cluster applications clearly demonstrate the collaborative nature of proposed projects.

Whole-School Approach (Global Passport)

School Clusters should engage with the WWGS Global Passport across the participating schools. The Global Passport can help schools that are starting out with GCE, or support schools that want to deepen their existing GCE work. It is a minimum requirement that three schools participating in the cluster have submitted a 2025-26 Global Passport application to WWGS.

WWGS GCE Guiding Principles

School clusters applying for funding should show that they understand and are committed to the WWGS [Guiding Principles of GCE](#). Ideally initiatives will reference all or most of our WWGS Guiding Principles, but you may focus on some Principles more than others. Proposed initiatives should have a clear and explicit link to global justice issues and should be explored within the global context and root causes of the issues. Furthermore, these initiatives 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.

GCE Methods

WWGS recognises and values the varying **active methodological approaches** employed by school clusters. Applicants are encouraged to draw on their own expertise and experience in designing approaches that are appropriate to their thematic focus, and the needs of the schools participating in the cluster. We encourage applicants to visit the [GCE Teaching & Learning Activities](#) page on our website for examples of GCE activities used by WWGS. School Cluster proposed projects should foster critical thinking, encourage exploration of

the root causes of global issues, and promote a global justice perspective in line with the WWGS Guiding Principles for GCE.

2.2 How much funding can a School Cluster apply for?

A School Cluster may apply for a grant within a range of €1,000 up to a maximum value of €5,000.

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. Successful applicants under this Fund will be required to complete a Financial Report and an End of Year Narrative Report by May 2027.

2.3 What will WWGS provide funding for?

Eligible activities and costs for which you can apply for WWGS grant funding as a School Cluster are detailed in the [Grant Spending Ideas](#) under each Stamp in the WWGS Global Passport Guide. Applicants should note that grant funding awarded must be used for the benefit of all schools participating in the joint GCE initiative. Furthermore, to help to give you an idea of some initiatives that have previously been undertaken in schools, please see some wonderful [Case Studies](#) created by a number of WWGS supported schools.

It should be noted that there are NGOs (some funded by WWGS) as well as external speakers and facilitators that you could explore engaging with, subject to their capacity and availability to scaffold your initiative. WWGS has a [Directory of GCE Facilitators](#) available on our website.

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 2026/27 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 applications for 2026/27 received by 5pm on the 5th June 2026 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 2026. Contracting with successful applicants will commence from August 2026.
- 3.1.6. Projects can commence at the start of the 2026/27 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	20 th April 2026
Grant Call Closes - Deadline for Applications	31 st May 2026
Appraisal and Notification of Funding Decisions	July 2026
Grants Disbursal	From Sept 2026

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