



**WorldWise Global Schools
Global Citizenship Education (GCE)**

**Grant Call 2026-28
Applicant Guidelines
NGOs & Education Networks**

KEY DATES:

GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD:

20th April 2026 (Opens) – 31st May 2026 (Closes)

GRANT FUNDING PERIOD:

September 2026 to May 2028

These guidelines relate to the multi-annual WWGS Grant Call 2026-28. WWGS is offering grant funding on an all-island basis for a two year funding cycle to eligible NGO and education network applicants. Eligible applicants must work with schools and/or other post-primary settings on global justice issues and Global Citizenship Education. Further details, including the eligibility criteria and other requirements to apply, can be found below.

SECTION 1: Background

1.1 WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS)

[WorldWide 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 to post-primary education settings hereafter 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. WWGS also funds NGOs and education networks to provide GCE support to schools, and our Grants & Operations Officer supports NGO and education network grantees.

1.2 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.

WWGS-funded NGOs and education networks are expected to promote the Global Passport amongst their participating schools. NGOs and education networks 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.

Demonstrating and strengthening good practice in GCE delivery is very important and the [IDEA Code of Good Practice](#) is integral to educational practice delivered and supported by the WorldWide Global Schools programme.

1.3 WWGS Grant Funding for Organisations

WWGS recognises the important role that NGOs and education networks play in building the capacity of schools to access and engage with GCE. NGOs and education networks are an important resource for schools seeking guidance on GCE, as well as for those looking to deepen their GCE engagement. They often provide specialised learning in particular areas and support WWGS in building the GCE capacity of schools.

Multi-annual grant funding is available for eligible NGOs and education networks working in GCE on the island of Ireland under Grant Call 2026. The following timeline is applicable:

Key Stage	Key Dates
Grant Call Opens	20th April 2026
Grant Call Closes - Deadline for Grant Applications	31st May 2026
Appraisal and Notification of Funding Decisions	July 2026
Grant Disbursals	Autumn 2026
Final Grant Reporting	May 2028

CONTACT US - FOR HELP WITH QUERIES ON YOUR APPLICATION:

Queries on the application process can be emailed to grants@worldwiseschools.ie. Applicants are requested, firstly, to read these Guidelines in full. Applicants can also visit www.worldwiseschools.ie.

1.4 WWGS GCE Priorities and Delivery

Applicants are advised to take the following WWGS priorities into account **in advance** of planning and designing proposed projects:

WWGS GCE PRIORITIES:

NGOs and education networks play an important role in supporting schools and building their capacity to implement and deepen their GCE engagement. Where NGOs and education networks have specialised learning in particular areas, they are encouraged to focus on these areas when working with schools. In terms of WWGS GCE priorities for 2026-28, the following should be carefully considered:

Schools Reach: Applicants are encouraged to increase the reach of GCE by targeting schools not currently engaged with WWGS. This approach will support WWGS in building a broader and more diverse spread of post-primary engagement in GCE. A full list of schools currently involved directly in the WWGS programme is available on our website. Applicants are encouraged to consider schools that may have had more limited access to or engagement with GCE to date. This may include schools serving communities experiencing greater levels of disadvantage, Irish-medium schools, or schools in locations with more limited access to GCE resources and expertise.

Students: WWGS welcomes grant applications for projects that seek to build student capacity and engagement in GCE. While it is recognised that Transition Year (TY) is often an amenable entry point, engagement outside this student cohort is encouraged too. The [WWGS subject guidelines](#) on our website can be helpful in establishing curriculum linkages for GCE. Applications that include elements of working with Student Committees, student peer learning, skills development and student action-led projects are welcome under Grant Call 2026. For further information on building student capacity and engagement, please see our [Global Passport Guide](#) (Page 11).

Educators: WWGS recognises the role of NGOs and education networks in building teacher capacity and engagement in GCE. Applicants seeking to work with educators, on valuable and varied GCE topics, continue to be encouraged to do so where this is considered their key strength. As WWGS Education Officers focus on training educators, NGOs and education network applicants may wish to consider a greater focus on working with students, where they have the capacity to do so.

Whole School Approach: One of the objectives of the WWGS programme is to support GCE NGOs and education networks in the promotion and implementation of a whole school approach to GCE in the post-primary sector. A whole school approach to GCE is articulated through our WWGS [Global Passport Framework](#). Applicants seeking funding from WWGS should demonstrate a knowledge of and commitment to a whole school approach in delivering GCE.

GCE DELIVERY:

Applicants should demonstrate how their proposed project is informed by the WWGS [Guiding Principles](#) for GCE.

WWGS recognises and values the varying **active methodological approaches** employed by NGOs and education networks. 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 schools. The projects proposed 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. We encourage applicants to visit the [GCE Teaching & Learning Activities](#) page on our website for examples of GCE activities used by WWGS.

WWGS places importance on the **sustainability** of GCE initiatives at post-primary. Applicants should consider the sustained impact their proposed project can have in terms of embedding GCE into participating schools on a sustainable basis. This is achieved by building the capacity of students, teachers and principals to continue this GCE work independently without external support.

The [WWGS Reflection Tool](#) is designed to help WWGS, schools and NGOs and education networks to **reflect upon and evaluate school engagement with GCE**. It is intended to capture growth in understanding of GCE, learnings, most significant changes and/or impact.

SECTION 2 : Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Who is eligible to apply for funding from WWGS?

NGOs and education networks that can demonstrate effective GCE delivery, engagement, capacity building, good practice and financial oversight may apply under WWGS Grant Call 2026. Applications for multi-annual funding are invited from such eligible organisations to provide GCE initiatives in post-primary schools during the 2026/27 and 2027/28 academic years under Grant Call 2026.

Eligible Organisations:

2.1.1 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

NGOs not in receipt of **Irish Aid programme funding**; that work with schools to build their capacity to implement GCE themselves; and who fulfil the eligibility criteria outlined under Section 2.2, are eligible to apply for WWGS funding.

2.1.2 Established Education Networks

WWGS will support and fund established education networks that wish to increase their participating schools' capacity to engage with GCE. The key characteristic of an established education network is that it is a recognised group of schools with a formal governance structure in place. A network may include schools from Northern Ireland as part of WWGS all-island support for GCE.

2.2 What are the specific applicant eligibility criteria?

Any NGO or established education network engaged in GCE at post-primary level that meets the following criteria is eligible to **apply for WWGS grant funding**:

⇒ **Organisational Status:** Applicant organisations must have a charitable tax exemption from the Irish Office of the Revenue Commissioners i.e. be the holder of a charity reference number (CHY), or hold a current Tax Clearance Certificate.

⇒ **Governance:** Applicant organisations must have a formal decision-making structure that can take legal responsibility for the administration and use of Irish Aid WorldWide Global Schools funds.

⇒ **Dependency on Irish Aid:** Income received from Irish Aid, either directly or indirectly, must not exceed 90% of the applicant's overall organisational income. This dependency must not exceed 60% in cases where an organisation is a recipient of income under Irish Aid's Civil Society Fund (CSF). Applications requesting funds in excess of this funding ratio will be deemed ineligible.

⇒ **Funding Status:** Applicant organisations in receipt of a Programme Grant from Irish Aid, or who are Strategic Partners of the Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Unit, are not generally eligible to apply for WWGS funding.

⇒ **Financial Accountability:** Applicants should have annual accounts for the two most recent financial years available and, where possible, on their organisation's website. In cases where the annual organisational income exceeds €100,000, these must be independently audited accounts.

⇒ **Record of Compliance:** Applicant organisations previously in receipt of WWGS/Irish Aid funds must have a record of compliance in terms of the administration and use of such funds (i.e. have submitted financial and narrative reports as per agreed schedules in previous contracts). Applicants who have a previous record of non-compliance with the terms of a WWGS/Irish Aid contract, including adherence to Specific Conditions, may not be considered for further funding. Additionally, grantees who have not made themselves available for WWGS support meetings and training within the duration of their grant funding period may not be considered for future funding.

⇒ **Joint Applications:** WWGS will accept applications from entities that wish to jointly apply for a collaborative GCE engagement. In such instances there will be an eligible lead applicant who will be responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the other organisation(s). All aforementioned criteria under Section 2 will apply to the lead applicant in this instance. It is expected that all parties to the application would be responsible for contributing to delivery of the proposed project.

⇒ **Safeguarding/ Child Protection:** Organisations that work with children and young adults under the age of 18 must have child protection policies in place that are dated and in compliance with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and the Children First Act 2015. All organisations engaging in school-based activities must ensure that appropriate internal vetting procedures are in place in their organisation and should have garda vetting in place. Organisations are also required to provide us with either a Child Safeguarding statement or Safeguarding policy.

2.3 How much funding can an organisation apply to WWGS for?

The WWGS Grant Call is subject to funding availability from Irish Aid each year. Overall, applicants under all WWGS funding streams include NGOs, education networks, School Clusters and individual Schools. Under this set of Grant Call Guidelines 2026-28, WWGS is offering grant funding on an all-island basis and multi-annual funding basis for two years for eligible NGO and education network applicants. NGO and Network applicants should note that Grant Call 2026 covers the cumulative period for the academic years from 2026-27 and 2027-28. Accordingly, there will be no Grant Call in 2027 for NGO and Network applicants.

NGO and Network applicants can apply to WWGS for maximum multi-annual grant funding of up to €80,000 under Grant Call 2026-28. Please note that this is the maximum grant that an organisation can apply for to cover the two-year multi-annual period from September 2026 up until May 2028. It is imperative that applicants only apply for a level of funding on which they have the capacity to deliver. Approved funding will be disbursed in two 50% instalments at the beginning of each of the two years. By way of example, this is illustrated in the table below:

TIMEFRAME	Example 1	Example 2
2026-2027 (Year 1)	€9,000	€40,000
2027-2028 (Year 2)	€9,000	€40,000
TOTAL	€18,000	€80,000

Applicants should note this is a **competitive grants round** and grants are allocated on the basis of available funding (which may be subject to change each year). There is no guarantee of a funding allocation to any organisation, including those previously in receipt of a WWGS grant. Funding is awarded based on the merit of each individual funding application and in adherence to the criteria set out in these guidelines, and is based on the volume and quality of applications received in any given year.

ELIGIBLE COSTS: What type of costs are eligible for WWGS funding?

Projects proposed by NGO and education network applicants must support and build the capacity of schools to embark on or more deeply embed Global Citizenship Education, and all proposed project costs must be in line with this remit. The types of costs that are eligible for WWGS funding can be found in the numbered headings (1-6) in the WWGS Finance & Workplan Template accompanying the online application.

Any resources developed with funding support from WWGS should be informed by the [Guideline for Producing Development Education Resources](#) and the most recent audit of Irish Development Education Resources, completed by 80:20 which can be found [here](#). Also, all resources intended for external use and dissemination (i.e. non internal workshop materials e.g. workbooks) should be shared with www.developmenteducation.ie. In addition, all resources developed with funding support from WWGS should acknowledge Irish Aid's WorldWide Global Schools, and clearly state that the ideas, opinions and comments therein are entirely the responsibility of its author(s) and do not necessarily represent or reflect Irish Aid or WWGS policy.

INELIGIBLE COSTS: What type of costs are NOT eligible for funding?

There are a range of costs that are not considered eligible for WWGS funding, which applicants should take note of prior to planning and developing a grant application.

The following is an indicative list of the **type of costs** that are not eligible for WWGS funding:

- Costs incurred outside the project timeframe;
- Capital or equipment costs (unless justified as essential to the delivery of the project);
- Consultant fees to prepare applications;
- The purchase, repair or furnishing of buildings;
- Servicing debts or loans;
- Contingencies;
- Retrospective expenditure, i.e. costs incurred prior to the agreed project start date;
- Projects with a primary aim to raise the profile of an organisation or to raise funds;
- Organisational development;
- Projects with a development studies rather than a GCE focus;
- Exposure visits overseas, including flights and other associated costs in country;
- Proposals confined to individual schools are ineligible;
- Research;
- Campaign/advocacy projects are not eligible unless they adequately demonstrate GCE content;
- Cultural events are ineligible unless part of a wider GCE project demonstrating adequate GCE.

SECTION 3: Application & Appraisal Process

3.1 Application Process:

- 3.1.1 New applicants must register [here](#).
- 3.1.2 Applicants should note the following supplementary sections to be completed in addition to the main online application form:
 - i) Participating Schools (Online) – Please see [here](#) for a list of individual schools supported directly by WWGS last year;
 - ii) Participating Project Personnel (Online);
 - iii) WWGS Finance & Workplan Template (Excel template to be attached to application).
- 3.1.3 Applicants should avoid any unnecessary repetition in their application and be as succinct as possible, paying close attention to word counts where specified (under the helptext, denoted by the orange bubble containing a question mark after each question on the online application form).

- 3.1.4 Only fully completed applications received by the 31st of May 2026 will be considered. An automatic email will issue from WWGS to the Lead Applicant once the application is submitted, confirming that it has been received.
- 3.1.5 All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their multi-annual funding applications before Autumn 2026. Contracting with successful applicants will commence in the Autumn.
- 3.1.6 Projects can commence within the eligible time frame once an accepted contract has been returned to WWGS and the successful applicant has adhered to any necessary pre-conditions.
- 3.1.7 Feedback can be provided, on request, to unsuccessful applicants with a view to informing any future grant application.

3.2 Appraisal Process

An external Grants Selection Committee will assess all eligible applications received and make decisions on the allocation of available WWGS grant funding. The general criteria for assessing grant applications and contributing to the overall grants decision-making process are outlined below:

Criterion 1: Strategy, Governance and Financial Oversight

Appraisers will in the first instance assess whether the applicant’s organisational strategy is coherent with the proposed GCE project, and whether the organisation has adequate capacity to deliver on the proposed project. Appraisers will assess the effectiveness of the governance and financial oversight systems of the applicant, as well as management structures, self-regulation initiatives and decision-making processes. In addition, appraisers will pay particular regard to risk management and mitigating strategies as presented by the applicant. The extent to which risks associated with project delivery are taken into consideration for the duration of the funding from 2026 – 2028 will be carefully assessed. Projected budgets will be analysed against efficiency and value for money principles.

Criterion 2: Quality of the Project Summary

Appraisers will assess the overall quality of each proposal as well as the quality/depth of GCE engagement that the project seeks to achieve. Applicants should present a clearly articulated, succinct and coherent project proposal. WWGS will allocate grant funding for GCE for applications that demonstrate a strong Global Justice focus and alignment with the WWGS Guiding Principles for GCE. Applications must also demonstrate coherence with WWGS GCE Priorities and Delivery as outlined in Section 1.4, which include:

- A focus on engaging new schools that are not currently engaged with WWGS or in GCE.
- A focus on building the GCE capacity of Students.
- A focus on building the GCE capacity of Educators.
- A strong use of Active Methodological Approaches to GCE.

Criterion 3: Project Alignment with WWGS Global Passport & Guiding Principles for GCE

Appraisers will assess the extent to which the project will promote a whole school approach to GCE within the proposed schools. The project should be informed by the WWGS Global Passport and the WWGS Guiding Principles for GCE.

Criterion 4: Sustainability of GCE

Appraisers will assess the sustained impact that a proposed project will offer in terms of embedding GCE in participating schools. This is achieved by building the capacity of students, teachers and principals to continue this GCE work independently without external support.