

EEFfective Kent Project: *Promising Projects* Frequently Asked Questions

COVID-19:

1) Has the EEFfective Kent Project been impacted by COVID-19?

Yes, like everything else, COVID-19 has meant we've had to make changes to the project and may need to make further changes as the crisis unfolds. The EEFfective Kent Project team are constantly reviewing the project in light of the situation and making contingency plans, where possible, to ensure that there is minimal impact.

2) What are the main changes to the EEFfective Kent Project?

Most parts of the project are going ahead as planned, however, there will be changes to the timings of the next funding application (*Promising Projects*) rounds. We plan to open Round 2 over an extended period to give schools flexibility and allow them to secure funding as and when they identify needs.

3) Will the *Promising Projects* still be relevant given the issues created by COVID-19?

Yes. The *Promising Projects* may be even more important at this time, particularly as you identify gaps in student's learning. They have all been shown to have a positive impact on pupil's attainment and may be able to help you respond to the learning and attainment gaps created by COVID-19.

4) Reading and Understanding in Key Stage 1 (RUKS/Abracadabra) was available but I can't see it any more. Can I still access this programme through the EEFfective Kent Project?

No, unfortunately this *Promising Project* had to be removed from the EEFfective Kent Project offer due to unforeseen circumstances. If you were interested in applying for this *Promising Project* and would like to discuss alternative options, please contact us (EEFfectiveKentProject@kent.gov.uk).

5) Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) was available but I can't see it any more. Can I still access this programme through the EEFfective Kent Project?

The Education Endowment Foundation and Department of Education (DfE) are now providing NELI completely free to schools from January 2021, as part of the National Tutoring Programme. Schools must apply through the DfE but it is anticipated that all schools in Kent who apply will receive funding. You can register interest through the simple form [here](#). You can apply to the DfE to do NELI and also apply to do another *Promising Project* through the EEFfective Kent Project.

6) Will COVID-19 affect the application process?

No, Rounds 2 and 3 will still take place and you will still be able to apply online using the application form. There will be changes to the timings of the rounds. We plan to open Round 2 over an extended period to give schools flexibility and allow them to secure *Promising Projects* funding as and when they identify needs. We want to give schools the chance to secure the

funding. Please visit our [webpage](#) for the latest information and dates for the application rounds.

7) Will COVID-19 have an impact on how *Promising Projects* are run in schools?

At the moment the assumption is that all *Promising Projects* will be able to go ahead, but there may be delays to start dates or changes to how they will be delivered. If delays or changes to delivery are needed, the EEFective Kent Project Team will make contact with the affected schools.

8) Will the *Promising Project* providers be affected by COVID-19?

Yes, like all of us, they are dealing with the impact of the crisis. We don't anticipate major changes to any of the projects and we assume that all the *Promising Projects* on offer will be able to go ahead. The EEFective Kent Project team are constantly reviewing this. In some instances, there may be some delays or changes to delivery but where this happens, we will work with you to ensure this works for your school. However, it is important to note that this stage is to secure funding as the longer-term effect of COVID-19 on the project is unknown.

9) If there are changes to the delivery of the *Promising Project* I've successfully applied for, am I still committed to engage with this?

If changes to delivery make it difficult for your school to participate, please contact the EEFective Kent Project Team and raise your concerns as soon as possible. The team will work with you to try to resolve issues and find a solution that works for your school. This could be delaying your start date, considering other *Promising Projects* that are similar that you could engage with, or where a solution cannot be found you may decide to withdraw. This must be prior to signing your Memorandum of Understanding.

10) If the needs of my school change due to COVID-19 am I still committed to engage with the *Promising Project* I have successfully applied for?

If there are changes to your school context that mean the project is no longer appropriate to your school's needs, please contact the EEFective Kent Project Team and raise your concerns as soon as possible. The team will work with you to try and find a solution that works your school. This could be delaying your start date, looking at alternative *Promising Projects* that may meet your schools changed needs or you may decide to withdraw. This must be prior to signing your Memorandum of Understanding.

11) The UK Government have announced the COVID 'catch up' fund, is this funding applicable to the activities that schools need to contribute funding towards under the EEFective Kent Project?

It is anticipated that Kent schools will be able to use this fund towards their 50% contribution towards the cost of *Promising Projects* following a successful application. The *Promising Projects* are specifically mentioned in the [EEF's COVID-19 Support Guide for Schools](#). The EEFective Kent Project Team are watching this and will confirm when we know more.

***Promising Projects* in Schools Application Process:**

1) Which schools are eligible to apply for *Promising Project* funding?

To apply for *Promising Project* funding you must be a publicly funded Kent County Council school.

2) Can Academies apply?

Yes, the fund is open to all publicly funded Kent County Council schools.

3) When can I apply for *Promising Project* funding?

You can apply during any of the applications rounds in 2020 and 2021 listed on the [EEFfective Kent Project webpage](#).

4) What if I want to work with another school when doing my project?

All schools must submit their own application but, on the form, there is an option to tell us if you would like to work with another school and to identify who the school/s are. This is true for academies, trusts and all types of collaborations and federations.

5) Do I have a choice about when I can implement the *Promising Project* after I've successfully applied?

If you have applied for a project that involves central training, the timing of the training will be set by the provider in liaison with you and the other schools involved. They will contact you and will aim to find the best timings for all who will be attending the training.

If the project takes place just in your school, you will be able to negotiate your preferred start dates directly with the provider and ensure timings work for you both.

6) Can I apply now but start later?

Yes, where the project takes place in your school, you can start at any time during the life of the EEFfective Kent Project as long as you have negotiated and agreed this with the provider. Where central training is involved, you will have less choice, but can still share your preferences with the provider.

We would recommend that you apply as soon as you can, even if you would prefer to run the project later.

7) Do I need to complete the implementation training before I apply for *Promising Project* funding?

No, we understand that doing this prior to applying might not be possible.

However, it is a condition of the application that a senior leader in the school will complete this training. You are, however, **strongly recommended to do this before applying** because the implementation training will help you with choosing the project most appropriate for your school. You can complete the implementation training online via this [link](#).

8) How many *Promising Projects* can I apply for?

The Effective Kent Project will only fund one *Promising Project* for your school. When filling in your application, we encourage you to identify a first and second choice in case there are availability issues. If you wanted to run more than one of the *Promising Projects*, you could arrange this yourself directly with the Provider, but this would be at full cost to your school.

9) My school is small. Will this project work for me?

Yes, there are cost saving options for small schools in the [prospectus](#) for some of the projects. These relate to sharing resources and joint training.

10) How long does it take to complete the online application form?

Feedback from the first round was the form was quick and easy to complete, however, it will depend on you and your school. Apart from some logistical details, the main questions in the application ask you to explain why the project is right for your school and how you will make sure it can work in your school. Please note, the application form times out an hour after starting but you can save as you go.

11) Will late applications be accepted?

We understand the pressures in schools, but ask that you meet the deadlines outlined on the [EEFective Kent Project webpage](#). Late applicants will be asked to resubmit in the next round.

12) What is the difference between the strands and the rounds mentioned in the prospectus?

EEFective Kent is a big project with three main **strands** of work. They are:

1. Promising Projects in schools (Strand 1)
2. Evidence-based training for schools (Strand 2)
3. Building capacity in schools (Strand 3).

Within Strand 1, there are three application windows which we refer to as rounds. The timings and details for these are set up on the [EEFective Kent Project webpage](#) and in the [Promising Project prospectus](#).

13) If I am interested in applying in a future round do I need to do anything ahead of this such as completing a pro-forma?

No, if you would like to apply in a future round there is no pro-forma that you need to complete. You may wish to prepare for completing an application by reading the [Promising Project Prospectus](#) and attending a roadshow event (currently we are only running this virtually and can be accessed [here](#)) or contacting the provider of the *Promising Project* you are interested in to find out more. One of the requirements of the match-funding is to complete the EEF's implementation training which you can access [here](#).

Finance & Funding:

1) How will the funding work?

We will organise the payment to the provider and then invoice you for your 50% contribution. After the project has started and after expenses have been incurred, you can then claim from us a contribution towards some travel and cover costs. You must have evidence of your expenses before you can claim. The details of costs will be agreed with you via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will be specific to your school and project.

2) When will schools be charged for their *Promising Project*?

You will receive an invoice from Kent County Council for 50% of the cost of your project within the financial year of the project being agreed.

3) Can I claim expenses when staff need to attend training?

Yes, where appropriate and as agreed in your MoU, you can claim a flat rate of **£100 per day** for teacher cover when a teacher needs to attend training externally for the project. Cover cannot be claimed for teaching assistants. You can also claim for travel expenses for staff (both teachers and/or teaching assistants) if they need to attend external training. This will be at a flat rate of **£15 per training session**. Claims for cover and travel can only be claimed

after the cost has been incurred and as outlined in your MoU. Schools must keep evidence of these costs as they may be requested for audit purposes.

4) How do I claim expenses for teacher cover and travel?

Schools may claim for these expenses by submitting an invoice to the EEEffective Kent Project team. The invoice must include the schools DFE number in order to be valid and processed. Claims can only be made once the cost of cover and/or travel has been incurred. Schools will be invited to make claims on a quarterly basis and a full timetable will be shared with those schools that are successful in their applications. Full details will be shared with you after you have successfully applied.

5) What happens if a school's circumstance changes?

The school will need to inform the EEEffective Kent Project team as soon as possible and without delay to discuss the way forward. In some cases where schools do not attend their booked places or withdraw from the project once they have begun, they may become liable for the full cost of the programme. This will be negotiated with KCC and the EEF and be reviewed on a case by case basis.

6) Can I participate in the EEEffective Kent Project if I'm already working with the EEF on another project?

Yes, working on another project shouldn't interfere with your ability to be part of the EEEffective Kent Project. If you are unsure, please feel free to email us at EEEffectiveKentProject@kent.gov.uk to check.

Evaluation:

1) What are the requirements of the evaluation for the *Promising Projects* strand of the EEEffective Kent Project?

The EEF is commissioning an external independent evaluation of the EEEffective Kent Project. This may use surveys, case studies, interviews with staff and quantitative analysis. As part of this quantitative analysis the evaluation may use publicly available data to compare outcomes in participating schools to those in other schools. Following a tender exercise, a full evaluation protocol will be developed with the independent evaluator, with both KCC and the EEF contributing to the development and finalisation of the protocol. KCC may wish to carry out their own evaluation. KCC will ensure that there is no duplication and that the evaluation is not onerous for schools.

If you have a question about the EEEffective Kent Project and it has not been answered here, please email the team at (EEEffectiveKentProject@kent.gov.uk) and we will answer as soon as possible. We will also then add this to our FAQs as someone else is likely to have a similar question.