

2026-27 Science in Schools grant scheme

Opens midday *Tuesday 5 May 2026*

Closes midday on *Friday 5 June 2026*

Fully funded school visits worth £800 are offered for students, teachers, and families to experience a Royal Institution Science in Schools day. This scheme is generously supported by AstraZeneca, Bain Capital Europe Children's Fund, Worshipful Company of Founders, the de Laszlo Foundation, AM McGreevy No 5 Charitable Settlement, John S Cohen Foundation, G M Morrison Charitable Trust, Chalk Cliff Trust and M&G Community Foundation.

Read on to find out how the scheme works and how to make an application.

What are Science in Schools grants for?

- A fully-funded school visit worth £800
- This grant covers the full package of two performances of a school show of your choice for students, a CPD session for teachers, and an after school or evening community show for a family audience
- All activities funded by this grant would need to be completed on the same day, on any date between 1 October 2026 and 30 September 2027

Am I eligible to apply?

In order to apply for a grant, you must:

- Be from a state-funded primary or secondary school/academy in the UK (shows can be adapted for ages 4-7, 7-11, or 11-14)
- Be a member of the school staff who is involved in teaching a STEM subject in the school
- Be able to demonstrate that your students would not otherwise have access to this opportunity

How do I apply?

1. Read below to find out what we are looking for in your application and take a brief look at the online application form (available from 5 May) to see what information we will require from you.
2. Complete the online application form by midday on Friday 5 June 2025

What happens after I've submitted an application?

To manage the increase in demand for school visits, grants will be awarded in two stages during the 2026-2027 academic year, based on the dates you would prefer to book your visit:

- Your application will be assessed, and if you applied for the autumn term, 2026, you will receive notification of the outcome before the summer holidays. We aim to contact all applicants for this term by Friday 3 July (whether or not you were successful)
- If you applied for a grant-funded visit in the spring or summer term, 2027 you will receive notification of the outcome early in the autumn term.
- If you are successful, you will be asked to suggest a range of dates for your Science in Schools day to the Royal Institution schools team, and to sign a contract agreeing to the funding terms and conditions

- If a term is oversubscribed, you may be offered a booking at another point in the year. Please note that March dates (in particular, British Science Week) are in high demand and may be less likely to be accommodated.
- Once your Science in Schools day has taken place, you will be asked to complete online feedback about the activities you had in your school

What are we looking for in your application?

A strong application will clearly address both of the following areas:

A. Need for STEM support

While priority will be given to schools in disadvantaged areas, with a low IDACI rank and high proportion of students eligible for free school meals, we understand that other factors can be barriers to accessibility. Please include any additional information that will help us understand the needs of your students, staff, and community. These could be, for example:

- Demographic
- Circumstantial (e.g. remote location)
- Financial

B. Aims

Please think about all three elements of the package (student show, CPD and family show) and include information on engagement across and beyond the school, for example:

- Staff and student involvement
- Involvement of the wider community, such as parents (if applicable)

Are there any specific outcomes expected as a result of your Science in Schools day?

Examples from previous grant recipients include: development of skills, attitudinal change, inspiration, and access to new experiences.

Use of AI

We understand that AI can provide useful tools in putting together your application, particularly for those with less experience in creating them. We will therefore not reject applications just because AI has been used. However, we want to hear your own thoughts as to how this grant will positively impact your school and any unique circumstances that are relevant to your application. So, if you are using AI to assist you in your application, please ensure you use it as an aid only, as purely AI generated applications are less likely to be successful.

Where can I get support?

If you have any questions about the grant scheme or application process, please contact the team at schools@ri.ac.uk