






## **New Schools Network Support Throughout the Application Process**

New Schools Network (NSN) is an independent charity providing free advice and support to groups who are looking to set up Free Schools. We can offer the following free services:




### **Adviser**

Each group we work with is assigned a dedicated adviser who will provide personal support including:

-  Advice, information and resources. Advisers are available by email and telephone, as well as in face to face meetings and surgeries throughout the process;
-  Setting up meetings with NSN specialists; and
-  Giving detailed and comprehensive feedback on draft application forms before submission to the Department for Education (DfE).

### **Specialist advisers**



NSN has specialist advisers in educational planning and school operations to help groups with school policies, curriculum, financial and HR issues. Our specialists will provide advice:

-  For groups looking to set up mainstream Free Schools;
-  For groups looking to set up Special Free Schools; and
-  For groups looking to set up Alternative Provision Free Schools.

Groups can have up to 4 meetings with specialists and feedback by email and phone.




### **Application feedback**

Before submitting an application to the DfE, groups can send drafts of their application forms to NSN for detailed feedback. The feedback will explain:

-  Which minimum criteria need to be addressed; and
-  Detailed comments on educational and financial plans.

### **Matchmaking**




There is a matchmaking service on NSN's website which enables groups to find:

-  Committed and skilled volunteers to strengthen their team and share expertise;
-  Additional individuals who can become trustees and governors; and
-  Potential partner organisations which can help groups build capacity.

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## Events

NSN runs tailored events for groups at each stage of the application process. All events will have substantial networking opportunities for groups.

-  *NSN: Getting Started* - how to develop your vision for the Free School, how to build the capacity and capability of your team, and how to build and demonstrate demand for the school.
-  *NSN: Bootcamp* - intensive events for groups preparing their applications to the DfE. Interactive seminars will cover each aspect of the application form.
-  *NSN: Expo* - this event will be for groups who wish to meet and identify organisations which could help deliver a school.

## Website and Publications

The NSN website enables groups to:

-  Download detailed, step-by-step guides to completing the DfE application form;
-  Access information about the policy and resources for the application process;
-  Increase their capacity and capability by identifying volunteers on NSN's online forum;
-  Network with other individuals and groups in their local area; and
-  Find information about upcoming events.

### Free School Development Programme

NSN gives extra support to groups who have extraordinary potential to raise educational standards. All groups accepted on to the Development Programme will receive:

- Extra support from NSN specialist advisers in financial and educational planning;
- Additional training seminars; and
- Mock interviews to prepare for the DfE assessment process.

In addition groups can ask for:

- Help finding individuals to fill gaps on their steering group.

Mainstream and Special Free School applicants can also request:

- Funding to help collect evidence of demand from parents.

For more information on how to apply for the Development Programme please see <http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/development-programme>.

Please contact us at [info@newschoolsnetwork.org](mailto:info@newschoolsnetwork.org) for more information or go to our website [www.newschoolsnetwork.org](http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org).

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A good school for *every* child