Elsie's Story Personal Grant Scheme

Application criteria and guidance

Our Personal Grant Scheme offers one-off grants to make a meaningful difference to the lives of children under 18. We support applications that enrich a child's quality of life through experiences, opportunities, equipment or support.

Who can apply?

Applications must be made for an individual family, parent or guardian, rather than an organisation or wider group. A grant may benefit one child or more than one child, provided all beneficiaries are under 18.

To be eligible, your application must:

- **Directly benefit a child or children under 18**, with a clear explanation of the difference the grant would make.
- **Focus primarily on enriching their quality of life.**
- **Support at least one of our four aims:**
    - Helping children enjoy meaningful experiences and make lasting memories.
    - Giving children more opportunities to take part, learn and thrive.
    - Supporting children facing difficult circumstances or barriers.
    - Easing children's pain, distress or hardship.

If you have previously received a grant from Elsie's Story, you must wait at least 12 months from the date you received your award before applying again.

We give priority to applications from the North West of England, where most of our work takes place, however we will consider grants from all over the country.

What can we fund?

We consider a range of requests where a one-off award could make a significant difference. Examples include:

- Equipment that meets a child's needs or improves their quality of life.
- Meaningful trips, visits or experiences.
- Support or counselling.

These examples are not exhaustive. We welcome applications for other types of support that meet the scheme's aims and eligibility criteria.

What can't we fund?

We cannot fund:

- Wider family or community costs that do not directly benefit children.
- Requests for personal financial gain, business purposes or other non-charitable purposes.
- Items or services that a public body is legally required to provide, sometimes called "statutory provision".

How much can you apply for?

We consider applications for **up to £2,000**. We may consider requests above £2,000, and there is no fixed upper limit. However, our aim is to help as many children as possible through small, targeted grants, so larger requests will need additional supporting information.

If this is not possible - for example, because specialist equipment is available from only one supplier or the request relates to a particular venue or experience - please explain why in your application.

What happens after you submit your application?

We review every application to check that it meets the scheme's eligibility criteria. If your application is not eligible, we will contact you to let you know.

Eligible applications are put forward for consideration, usually within eight weeks. We receive a high number of applications and, unfortunately, cannot fund them all. We aim to notify every applicant of the outcome, whether or not their application is successful.

Our trustees are responsible for all grantmaking decisions and reserve the right to decline applications for any reason.

What happens if your application is successful?

We will contact you to confirm your details and arrange payment.

We may attach additional conditions or restrictions to your award. These will be explained clearly in writing, usually by email.

We will also arrange a follow-up within six months of your award to hear how things are going. All successful applicants are asked to provide a short, written testimonial within this period, explaining the difference the grant has made and sharing any relevant updates.

We also ask for evidence of how the money has been spent, usually through a photograph or short video. We will not share this without your permission.

How can you use your grant?

Your grant must be used only for the purposes set out in your application and agreed by Elsie's Story.

If your circumstances change and you need to use the money differently, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss and agree any changes. We will do our best to help.

If you use the grant for anything other than the agreed purpose, we may ask you to repay it.

If you have purchased everything agreed in your application and have money left over, you must return the remaining funds to Elsie's Story. Please contact us so we can arrange this and keep an accurate record.

Will we share your story?

Sharing the difference our grants make helps raise awareness of the scheme and encourages other families to apply. If you would like to share photographs, videos or your story for this purpose, we would be very grateful.

Taking part in publicity is entirely optional. If you would prefer to keep your award private, we will always respect your wishes. Providing a testimonial or evidence of spending does not mean you are agreeing to its public use.