

Special school competitions

Newham 14/05/2019

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Agenda

- Introductions
- About New Schools Network
- Special free schools: the basics
- The special free school application process
- How New Schools Network can help you
- Questions

About New Schools Network

- Independent charity, founded in 2009
- Supports free school applicants and open/approved free schools
- Advocates for free school policy
- Worked with around 70% open/approved free schools
- Free services

Free schools: the basics

What are they?

Who sets them up?

How are they
funded?

Freedoms

Free schools: the basics

Do...

Offer education for pupils aged 4 - 19

Be open to all pupils, regardless of their faith, ability or social background

Held accountable through Ofsted inspections and exam results

Do not...

Receive more funding than other state schools

Get set up by 'anybody'

Special and AP free schools: the basics

- There are 34 open special free schools in England
- There are 54 that have been approved to open
- Only 19 have been inspected by Ofsted: 17 of which are Good or Outstanding

- There are 42 open AP free schools in England
- There are 11 that have been approved to open
- Only 32 have been inspected by Ofsted: 26 of which are Good or Outstanding

Special free school application process

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Special and AP application process

Bid

The LA

- Determines key features
- Prepares evidence of need
- Identifies potential site
- Submits a bid to the DfE

The DfE:

- Approves LAs bid documents
- Publishes specification and application criteria

Application

- Prepare an application with free support from NSN
- Submit application to the LA and DfE
- Attend an interview with the LA and DfE
- Approval from the DfE

Pre-opening phase

- Enrol on to NSN Delivery Programme
- Recruit staff, develop policies and curriculum, recruit pupils
- Support and funding from DfE
- Sign funding agreement

Open phase

- Continue relationship with NSN
- Build up to capacity
- Ofsted inspection with three years

Application timeline

Develop the vision for your free school

01

Build a team to help develop your application

02

Enrol on NSN's Development Programme

03

Submit your application

06

Develop detailed education and financial plans

05

Start engaging with stakeholders in your community

04

Lessons learnt

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Developing a vision

A clear vision will act as the basis for all other activities related to your free school:

Vision

The diagram consists of a large dark blue square on the left containing the word 'Vision' in white. To its right are three horizontal bars of different colors: a dark blue bar at the top with the text 'Building a team', a light blue bar in the middle with the text 'Application development', and a red bar at the bottom with the text 'Engaging the community'. The bars are stacked vertically and are positioned to the right of the 'Vision' box, suggesting a flow or relationship from the vision to these activities.

Building a team

Application development

Engaging the community

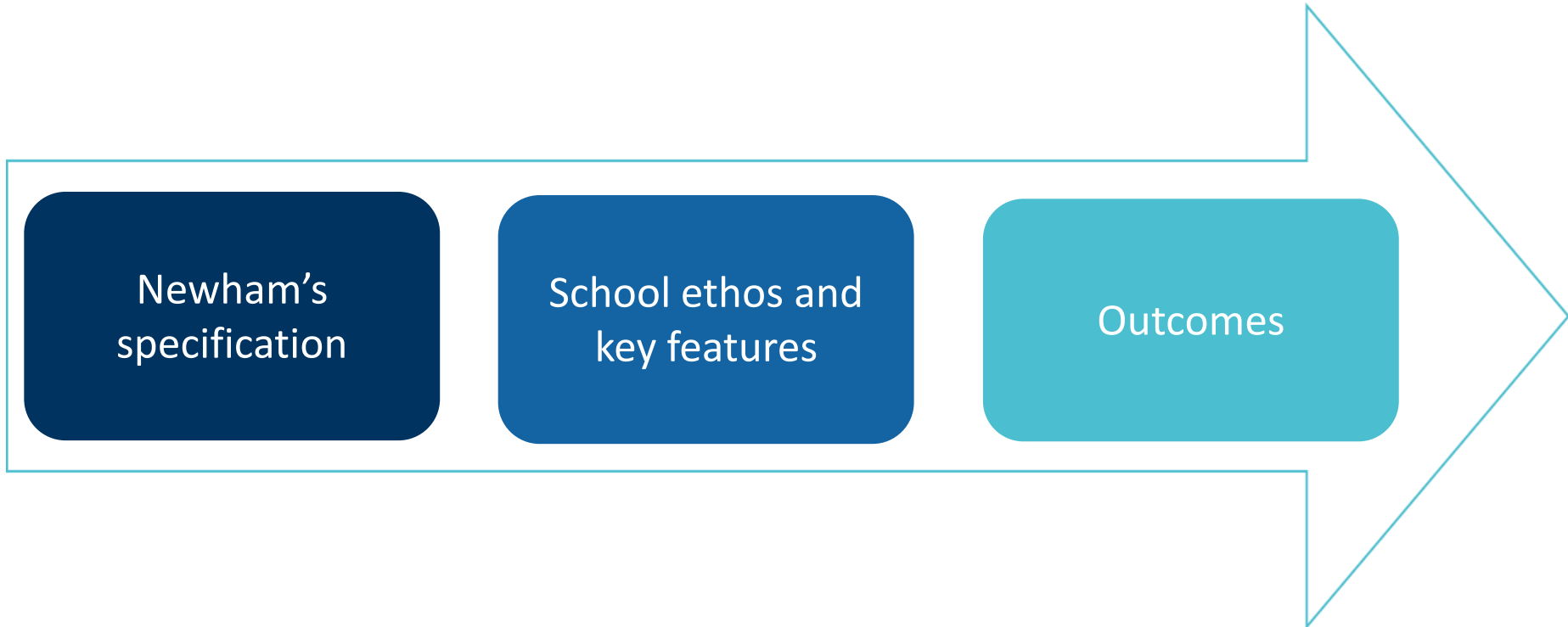
Presenting your vision

The DfE states that all applicants must:

- explain your own vision for the proposed school, and how it will deliver the local authority's specification;
- explain how that vision comes across in your curriculum approach and approaches to meeting pupils' special educational needs; and
- ensure that your vision is evidence-based and consistent with the rest of your application – your overall application should clearly show the plan for implementing your vision.

The vision

Developing a clear vision involves thinking about these key elements:



Importance of a strong team

Applying for, setting up and opening a free school is an extremely demanding process. It's essential that you have a strong, committed team with a wide range of skills working on the project.

Some of the challenges your team will face include:

Engaging with stakeholders
and commissioners

Building a financial plan for
the school

Designing a curriculum

Managing the project as a
whole

Establishing your curriculum and ethos

You must have the following:

- Education expertise relevant to the type of school you want to set up
- Finance expertise
- Governance expertise

You should have the following:

- Project management expertise
- Marketing/communications expertise

Necessary for pre-opening:

- HR expertise
- ICT expertise
- Buildings and sites
- Legal expertise
- Business/start up experience



How New Schools Network can help you

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NSN Development Programme

Feedback we have had from groups who have been on the programme has been overwhelmingly positive, and approval rates for groups on the programme shows its success.

100% of those who have received this additional support in the past said it was helpful

You are 50% more likely to be invited to interview.

11 of the 14 successful free schools from the local authority-led special free school round wave 1 received NSN support.

“The Development Programme was excellent and offered appropriate support, challenges and rigour.”

“We couldn’t have done it without you! Thank you so much for keeping us on track and motivated.”

How NSN can help you

Development Programme

A combination of the following:

- A named personal NSN Adviser
- A personalised support plan
- Written feedback on draft applications
- Specialist meetings
- Networking with other free schools
- Help marketing your school

Support for all groups

- Our series of training events
- An hour long 1-1 meeting with one of our Advisers
- Advice from the team via phone and email
- A wide range of resources on our website.

Enrolling onto the DP

- Book a 1-1 meeting with an adviser through our website.
- Submit an enrolment form through our website

Questions?

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