

Criteria for research that Mulberry Schools Foundation may conduct, commission or fund

Mulberry Schools Foundation wishes to add to the body of research that informs, extends and provides evidence for thinking and understanding in the areas addressed by our aims below.

Aims of the Mulberry Schools Foundation

- to remove barriers to learning, achievement and social engagement by supporting, developing and championing young people and their families in Mulberry Schools Trust's schools, partner schools and associated local and global communities;
- to extend to these young people the range of educational opportunities, commonly available to those from more privileged backgrounds, that build creativity, confidence, discernment, leadership, self-determination, global awareness and a belief that all opportunities and challenges are open;
- to work innovatively to enhance equality and social justice and to give voice to, and open doors for, young people and communities experiencing disadvantage, so building their capacity to make a difference to their world;
- to make a national and international contribution to educational improvement, policy and knowledge consistent with these aims.

Research criteria

In considering any research to be taken forward, or funded, by the Foundation, Trustees will consider the extent to which the research proposal:

- explores creative ways of making a difference in line with the Foundation's aims;
- draws on the voices and experiences of young people and other communities less often heard;
- brings in and connects relevant expertise from a number of fields;
- has creative but achievable objectives that will enhance knowledge, understanding and practice;
- has a clear plan for evaluating, reporting and sharing the research;
- will be relevant to others beyond the Foundation or funded organisation;
- has a robust, practicable and ethical methodology and timeline (no longer than two years);
- has detailed costings appropriate to the planned methodology.

Trustees will also consider the proposer's track record in related research.

Trustees are particularly interested in the potential contribution of education to the advancement of equality and social justice but will consider proposals for research in other areas relevant to the Foundation's aims.

Review of the criteria

These criteria will be reviewed by Trustees as required in the light of the outcomes and impact of completed research projects.

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