

INEOS Forgotten Forty Guide 2026

INEOS

- INEOS is a global company, privately owned by Sir Jim Ratcliffe, John Reece, and Andy Currie, operating across chemicals, energy, automotive, sport and charities.

INEOS Forgotten Forty Project (F40)

- This project was set up in 2020 by the owners of INEOS to help 100 schools in some of the UK's most deprived areas to support children living with the effects of poverty – children are at the heart of the project.
- F40 recognises that these schools are at the heart of their communities and are already doing a fantastic job of educating children, developing their self-esteem, expanding their horizons and raising their aspirations.
- We want to contribute to this committed work by donating a substantial annual cash gift to each school and trusting headteachers, who are best placed to know where support is needed most, to spend it in a way which reflects the specific needs of their school community.
- The 100 schools that have benefitted from the project to date have used the funding very effectively by implementing a huge variety of around 600+ initiatives to help them tackle some of the barriers faced by children from the poorest backgrounds.

What is happening with F40 now

- Funding for the initial 100 school cohort will draw to an end following the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year. We have selected a cohort of 20 new schools using a similar criteria.
- Each school will receive a gift of £20,000 for the 2026/27 academic year, and it is hoped that this will be repeated for a further two years.
- As before, each headteacher will be trusted and expected to use the funding to alleviate some of the effects of poverty and disadvantage being experienced by their children.

What F40 looks like when implemented in a school

- F40 is overseen by the headteacher but other staff can have F40 responsibilities.
- We encourage wider discussions within the school community about how to spend the money - an average of 3 - 6 initiatives are normally planned for each year.
- Initiatives are firmly focused on improving the lives of the children and many examples of this can be seen in the [F40 magazines](#) on our website.
- Larger scale capital spend and core staffing are excluded.
- Bureaucracy is kept to a minimum, but there are certain mandatory requirements.
- All proposed initiatives are submitted to the INEOS F40 team for approval before funds are released to the school.
- The expected areas of spending are:
 - Enrichment
 - Family Support
 - Mental Health / Nurture
 - Food and nutrition

- Other appropriate innovative proposals

F40 Conference 11th – 12th June 2026, Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 centre, Brackley

There is an annual, expenses paid, conference for F40 headteachers. More details will follow shortly in a separate email.

The F40 Team

- The INEOS Project Lead of F40 is Gordon Banks. He is assisted by Alexa Chilton who oversees F40 administration.
- The team who will support headteachers all have extensive experience in education and can assist with implementation of F40. They are Elaine Crotty, Sheila Loughlin, Brian Padgett, Elaine Wyllie and John Wyllie.
- The team will have ongoing oversight of how the project is progressing in schools and will co-ordinate update calls or visits and answer any queries you may have.

Expectations of schools

While F40 is, by design, not a bureaucratic exercise, we do have the following ongoing mandatory requirements and funds are not released to schools unless these are followed.

- Returns: meet all returns deadlines as published in our annual calendar. These returns include:
 - Agreement - the headteacher will sign and submit our Headteacher's Agreement document.
 - Contact details - we ask for three contact email addresses: the headteacher, the business manager and a nominated member of the teaching staff.
 - Bank details - submit the school bank details accurately with the name of the school's account, account number and sort code.
 - Planned Initiatives - use our online link to provide brief details and projected costs of planned initiatives.
 - Accounting - submit an annual record of spending.
- Evidence of impact: provision of evidence will include stories for the F40 magazine, data, quotes from children and staff, and photographs – more details will be shared at the F40 Conference. To demonstrate the range of initiatives, all schools are expected to feature in the F40 magazine.
- Attendance at conference: there is an annual conference for F40 headteachers where ideas for the way forward are generated and experiences are shared. Attendance at the conference is mandatory however a nominated member of staff with knowledge of F40 in the school can attend if the headteacher is unable to. Importantly there is a fun raffle!

Further details about the INEOS Forgotten Forty Project can be found [online](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the project?

The project aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged children. Funding for the initial 100 school cohort will draw to an end following the conclusion of the 2025/26 academic year. We have selected a cohort of 20 new schools using a similar criteria.

What is the money to be used for?

INEOS would like to help schools to ameliorate the effects of deprivation on the children in their school. We believe that headteachers are best placed to know how deprivation affects children in their school, collectively and individually, and the funds must be spent in ways which will have a positive impact on the children's lives.

Is the project concerned with raising attainment?

That is not the main concern for us. We want to see schools take steps to help disadvantaged children in ways which will make a difference to their lives. We understand that this may help to improve attainment, but it is not what the project is focused on.

Who is INEOS?

INEOS is a global, privately-owned company, and it is providing all the funding for this project. INEOS also funds other charitable initiatives in schools, such as The Daily Mile, which we hope participating schools may be interested in.

Why does my school qualify for this funding?

All of the 20 schools are located in areas of the country with high levels of deprivation. After applying a range of criteria, your school was selected by the project team as being one of the most eligible for support.

How and when will the money be paid?

A single payment of £20,000 will be made in September once the project team has approved the school's proposal. The gift should be regarded as being over and above any other funding received by the school and placed in a ring-fenced account.

Who has authority over the funds?

We expect all spending decisions to be the responsibility of the headteacher, acting within the guidance set out in the project guide.

What can the headteacher spend the money on?

We would like to see a wide range of initiatives and interventions implemented over the course of the project – all with the focus of ameliorating the impact of poverty. In consultation with headteachers of schools across the country serving areas of high deprivation, the project team identified four main areas in which funding is most likely to have a significant impact: Enrichment & Life Experiences; Family Support; Food and Fuel; and Nurture and Mental Health – but these are not exhaustive, and we hope to see many innovative ideas emerge during the project.

Are there any restrictions as to what the funding can be spent on?

The funding should not be spent on larger scale capital projects or on core staff salaries.

Is there a set number of initiatives each school must introduce?

You are free to introduce as many initiatives as you feel are required for your children. During the pilot, schools usually identified between three and six initiatives.

Does the school need to account for the ways in which the money is spent?

A detail record outlining the use of funding is a requirement for the funding. This will be expected in an annual return provided by the school. Guidance on how to do this can be found in the project guide. In managing the account, good practice guidelines must be followed.

How will the project team stay in touch with you?

Each headteacher has been allocated a specific member of the project team to be your contact, answer your questions and to offer advice. All of the team have a background in schools and education. We will communicate regularly with each headteacher and catch up with how things are going.

How can I find out what other schools are doing?

There will be a magazine, website and annual conference which will allow all schools to share their ideas and the impact of initiatives.

Will the project be monitored and evaluated?

We are very keen to hear what you, the children, staff, and families have to say about the impact of your initiatives and we will provide opportunities for you to share this information.

Will you seek the views of the headteachers in the chosen schools?

Yes, we will collate everyone's opinions and experiences as well as share good practice with other schools. We will ask you what worked well for you and what might be changed in future years.