

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM 2019-2020

Shinfield Parish Council offers a limited number of grants each year to organisations, clubs and charities which provide a service in the parish to its residents. Grants are generally awarded at the beginning of the financial year, although late applications may be considered.

All grant applications must be made using this form. Applicants must read the criteria and conditions carefully and supply the relevant information. The outcome will be notified in writing and in certain circumstances the grant may only be awarded if specific conditions are met. There is no appeal process if an application is turned down.

**Please complete all sections of this form. You may expand the boxes if necessary.**

**Name of Organisation:** Me2 Club

**Grant request from Shinfield Parish Council:** £500

**For what purpose is the grant to be used? How will it benefit the residents of Shinfield Parish?**

Me2 Club's purpose is to address the challenges of isolation and exclusion of children and young people with wide-ranging additional needs and disabilities throughout the Wokingham Borough by enabling them to attend a weekly mainstream leisure activity of their choosing. To do this we recruit, train, screen and support volunteers who are then carefully matched to the child who requires this individual help.

With our support children are empowered to access a wide range of activities including uniformed groups, sports clubs and drama groups, which their mainstream peers take for granted. Our work allows them the opportunity to achieve, feel a sense of pride and experience increased emotional wellbeing. A parent told us recently: *"To socialise with other teenagers whilst doing normal activities is a vital life skill. Without clubs like Me2 Club this would be impossible to achieve."*

We are seeking funds to continue supporting 4 children who are residents of Shinfield Parish.

Our project also benefits our volunteers who with our training and support can make a positive difference within their local community. Our comprehensive induction and development training programme also embed skills that many volunteers carry forward into careers in medicine, childcare or psychology. *"Me2 Club is one of the best things I've done. My experience has honestly been life changing and encouraged me to keep volunteering and working with children with additional needs. I'm so privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing staff, meet caring parents who take an interest in you beyond your volunteer role, and help a really special young person to take part in the activity that they love."*

**Have you applied to any other organisation for funding for all or part of this project/expenditure? If so, which organisation, and how much?**

The total cost of this project is £1,756 and the shortfall will be met with the unrestricted funding that was raised whilst we were the Wokingham Borough Mayor's chosen charity.

*"It has been an honour to work alongside the Me2 Club during my year in tenure. The services they provide for local young people are truly life-changing. It is a privilege to have been able to help raise this significant sum of money for the organisation – of which is much deserved."*

Cllr. John Kaiser, The Mayor of Wokingham Borough

### **About your Organisation :**

Briefly describe the role of your organisation within Shinfield Parish

Each year we support on average 100 children and we are currently supporting 4, who live within Shinfield Parish, to attend various mainstream leisure activities. Plus we have 4 more on our waiting list ready to be matched to a trained volunteer 'buddy'.

- 1) A 12-year-old girl with Down syndrome who we have helped to attend Drama classes since 2017.
- 2) An 8-year-old boy with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who joined us in 2015 and we are now supporting at a Gym class.
- 3) A 14-year-old-boy with ASD and Down syndrome who joined us in 2010 and we support at swimming (see case study below)
- 4) An 11-year-old-boy with Attention deficit disorder (ADHD) who we have supported at swimming since 2017.

### Case Study illustrating the difference we make

P. has attended swimming lessons with the support of a Me2 Club volunteer since 2010. When he first started, he would cry and refuse to get in the pool, but with the support and encouragement of his volunteer, he started to become more comfortable and confident. 9 years on, P. is still enjoying his swimming lessons and can't wait to get in the water each week! His volunteer supports him by visually showing him what to do, repeating instructions and giving him plenty of encouragement.

*"During my time with P. I have seen a huge amount of progress, I have really seen him develop in his activity and in social confidence. My being there gives him the confidence he needs to try new things and let out his true personality – a happy, outgoing sociable young man."*

P. has now come on 3 'Days Away' and a 'Weekend Away' with us and his volunteer. He wouldn't be able to do the activities that he loves without the support of Me2 Club!

Where are you based?

Our office is based in Woodley however we support children throughout the Wokingham Borough, including Shinfield.

Number of members in your organisation? 5 staff, 6 trustees and 80 volunteers.

**Contact for this application:**

Title:  First name:  Surname:

Position held in organisation: Fundraising Development Officer

Contact address: Parkside House, Unit 6, 15 Headley Road, Woodley

Postcode: RG5 4JB

Telephone Number: 0118 9696369

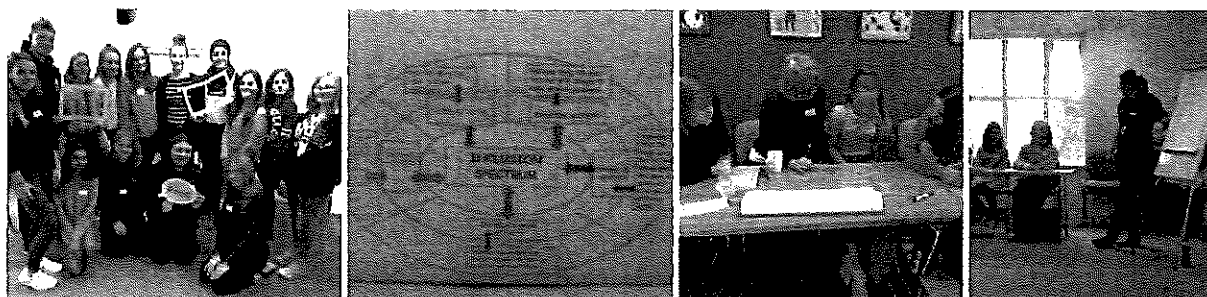
Email address: liz@me2club.org.uk



**Core Work:** *"I get to witness first hand every week the great work the volunteers do in the swimming pool with children who we would simply not be able to accommodate in mainstream lessons without their time, patience, expertise and all round greatness!" (Swim Development Manager)*



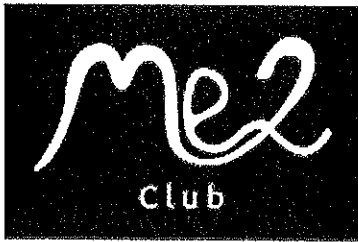
**'Weekends Away' and 'Days Away':** *"This experience feeds into building up his confidence to experience new activities and meet new friends" (Me2 Club Parent)*



**Training for Volunteers and Activity Leaders:** *"The training was well delivered, very useful and informative. Has given me a lot to think about – thank you" (Activity Leader)*



**Family Parties – Easter, Summer and Christmas:** *"This was the first time he has been in Santa's grotto because there was no queuing." (Me2 Club Parent)*



Sue Roberts  
Clerk  
Shinfield Parish Council  
Shinfield Parish Hall  
School Green  
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22nd October 2019

Dear Sue

Please find attached an application form requesting a grant of £500 to support 4 children with additional needs in the Shinfield area to attend a mainstream activity with one of our trained Me2 Club volunteers.

We are very grateful for all the financial support we receive from our funders and you can read all about the difference it has made in our latest annual report.

Please do let me know if you require any additional information and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best regards

Liz McDaniel  
Fundraising Development Officer

ENCS:

Grant application form

Accounts, Balance Sheet and Annual Report for 2018/19

Photos and quotes highlighting the difference we make



Charity Registration No: 1140812, Company Registration No: 7557636  
A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England and Wales

