



The BRIT School Gift Acceptance Policy

The BRIT School is a state secondary school and exempt charity under Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011, regulated by the Department for Education. The School is incredibly grateful for the essential support provided by a range of partners, including: individuals, statutory bodies, charitable trusts and foundations, and companies.

The main criteria for accepting partnerships or donations are where there are grounds for believing that it will benefit the School's mission: to prepare young people for sustainable careers in the arts. When the School seeks the support of external organisations and individuals we aim to ensure that:

- We have honest relationships with our donors.
- We retain our independence and avoid over-reliance on one or more key donors.
- We have consistent processes for making decisions about who we accept money from.
- We seek to be as cost effective as possible in developing sustainable fundraising streams.

The School's Development Team oversees the planning and delivery of all fundraising activities, supported by the Principal, Senior Leadership Team, Ethical Donations Committee and overseen by the Board of Trustees. All parties have agreed to adhere to the **Fundraising Regulator's Codes of Practice** to ensure best practice, transparency and accountability. The School is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Policy on Gift Acceptance

The Board of Trustees has a legal responsibility to use the charity's resources to further its aims for the public benefit, and therefore operates under the assumption that donations will normally be accepted. However there may be exceptional circumstances where refusing a donation is deemed to be in the best interests of the

charity, and the damage of accepting the donation outweighs the benefit of accepting it.

The School will not accept funding where the donation:

- Was known to be associated with criminal sources.
- Would help further a donor's personal or business objectives when these are in conflict with the objectives of the School.
- Would lead to long-term and / or irreparable decline in support of the School or in the resources available to fund our work.
- Would cause long-term and / or irreparable damage to our respective reputations.

The School will **not** accept donations which compromise the independence of the School. For example, where a gift is intended to influence the School's admissions process or a student's academic record.

Other reasons include where:

- The donation is made anonymously through an intermediary who is not prepared to identify the donor to anyone at the School.
- An association with the donor risks alienating trustees, students, audiences or other donors.
- The stewardship expected is unreasonable or disproportionate to the value of the gift.
- Acceptance of the funds would, in the judgment of the Trustees, significantly damage the effective operation of the School in delivering its mission.

Due Diligence Process

The Development Team will conduct all initial research and due diligence on new and suggested donations over £5,000. This includes researching background information from publicly available sources and keywords as defined in our Due Diligence matrix.

If - after initial due diligence - a prospective supporter has been deemed to be contentious, they will be referred to the Director of Development about how to proceed. Where necessary, further information and advice will be sought from third parties, such as professional search firms, and individual contacts who may have further knowledge of prospective supporters.

Delegation of Authority

The Development team will conduct all initial research and due diligence on new and suggested donations. Whilst the Board of Trustees hold ultimate responsibility for Gift Acceptance, delegation is given as follows:

Gifts up to £99,999: Director of Development

Gifts from £100,000 - £249,999: Ethical Donations Committee

Gifts above £250,000: Board of Trustees

Naming Rights

Where gifts or sponsorship include naming rights, either for spaces in the building or for BRIT School programmes / activity, these must be signed off by the Director of Development and SLT (under £100k), supported by due diligence research. Any naming rights must be time limited and include a clause on reputational risk.

Referring a Concern

Any member of The BRIT School community, including parents and students, can raise a concern about a donation made to the School. In the first instance, this must be directed to the Director of Development. They will decide with the Ethical Donations Committee if there is grounds for concern. The Board of Trustees will take the final decision in the event that a donation needs to be returned. If the Board ultimately decides to refuse or return a donation, a careful record of their decision will be kept and their decision will be binding.

Date Reviewed: 15/09/2026

Date of Next Review: 15/09/2027

Owner: Director of Development