



CHANNING SCHOOL

DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING POLICY

This policy applies to the whole School including to the EYFS

Updated	Review Date	Version
November 2025	January 2027	25.1

Reviewed by: Rachell Fox (Director of Communications, Marketing and Development) and Grace Mitchell (Development Manager)

Approved by: Roy Hill (Bursar) and Lindsey Hughes (Headmistress)

Signed by: Board of Governors (F & GP Committee)

Donations and Fundraising Policy

Introduction

Channing School gratefully receives donations, which advance the objects of the School. Donations and sponsorships can be important sources of funding and the School welcomes cooperation with individuals and businesses in the pursuit of shared values. However, the integrity of the School must not be compromised as a result of such donations. The Board of Governors has adopted the following policy to clarify the conditions under which the School accepts donations, to provide the underlying principles for soliciting donations, fundraising complaints and to identify situations for which Board approval is required prior to acceptance of a donation. This policy is aligned with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice (2025) and is based on four key principles that all fundraising must be Legal, Open, Honest and Respectful.

Implementation

This Donations Policy will be used to guide and inform the fundraising activities of the School. Channing School staff and volunteers are expected to comply with this policy. The School will ensure that any volunteers participating in fundraising on behalf of the School are appropriately trained, supervised, and safeguarded in accordance with the Fundraising Code of Practice.

Staff will work with the Headmistress in advance of soliciting donations, when appropriate, to ensure that the principles contained in this policy are adhered to. The Headmistress, supported by the Bursar and Director of Communications, Marketing and Development should evaluate all offers of donations to ensure consistency with this policy. For donations that are not consistent with the policy, the Headmistress must either decline the donation or seek approval from the Board of Governors for an exception to the policy.

The School will treat all donors fairly and respectfully. It will not place undue pressure on individuals to give, and will take particular care when engaging with anyone who may be in a vulnerable circumstance or lack capacity to make an informed decision. The School will also take reasonable steps to protect its staff and volunteers from harassment or harm in the course of fundraising activities.

The School will maintain clear records of fundraising decisions and due diligence processes to demonstrate accountability and transparency in line with the Fundraising Code of Practice. Where fundraising takes place online or involves electronic payments, the School will ensure that secure systems are used.

Policy

Donations - General

I. Acceptance of donations

The School will undertake appropriate and proportionate due diligence on all donors and sources

The Bursar monitors this policy regularly. It is reviewed at least every two years, following any concerns raised about this policy or whenever the Code of Fundraising Practice is updated, to ensure ongoing compliance.

of funding, considering factors such as size, origin, and potential reputational or ethical concerns. It will not knowingly accept donations derived from illegal or unethical activity.

The School will accept monetary or in-kind donations if:

- a) The donation is wholly consistent, in fact and appearance, with the School's Charitable Objects and its Articles of Association and the School's acceptance of it is in compliance with the School's other legal obligations and with this and its other relevant policies.
- b) The donation is not linked to a requirement that the School endorse any products or services.
- c) The donor is not involved in activities that may be construed to be contrary to the Articles of Association of the School and provided that there is no concern that the acceptance of a donation from the donor would adversely affect the reputation of the School.

If there is considered to be any such risk in accepting a donation, the Headmistress shall seek prior approval from the Board of Governors.

- d) The School will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is aware of the source of funding for every gift, and has processes in place to satisfy itself that the funds do not derive from activity that was or is illegal, or runs counter to its ethos or core values.

In exceptional circumstances, the School may refuse or return a donation if acceptance would conflict with its Charitable Objects, damage its integrity or reputation, or contravene the Fundraising Code of Practice. All such decisions will be documented and approved by the Board of Governors.

2. Secondary Purpose and Use of Donations

If an appeal raises more or less than the target amount, or if the intended purpose cannot be fulfilled, the School will apply surplus or deficit funds to a similar purpose or to its general charitable work. Donors will be informed of the secondary purpose at the point of appeal.

3. Acknowledgement

a) The School will be pleased to provide recognition to donors in a mutually agreeable format. If a donor asks to make an anonymous donation the School would need to be aware of the details of such a donation in order to comply with its own legal obligations and policies with regard to fraud, bribery or money-laundering. Such details would also be required if the School were to seek to reclaim any gift aid if appropriate. In accepting an anonymous donation the School would agree that it would not seek to publicise the source of any donation but would provide information if the School were legally obliged to do so. The Chair of Governors and the Headmistress will be informed as a matter of course about all anonymous donations.

b) Corporate and business donors will be acknowledged in an appropriate manner that is considered acceptable to the School. The Headmistress must decline any form of acknowledgement, which it is considered might adversely impact on the School or its reputation. It is recognised that such action might impact upon any related donation. The Headmistress should inform the Governors of any such action which she takes.

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c) Recognition of a corporate donation on School publicity material/sports kit etc. is allowed but the size and style of the recognition must be proportionate and not dominate the item.

4. Gift Aid

In seeking to reclaim any gift aid made on donations made by UK taxpayers the School will ensure that proper taxation advice is received. The format of any gift aid declaration used by the School will be in accordance with HMRC guidelines. Where there is any doubt as to the legitimacy of any claim for the recovery of gift aid the School will seek advice from its accountants.

5. Disclosure

- a) The School will provide a copy of the Donations Policy to any corporation, business, organisation or individual that requests it.
- b) The School will post its Donations Policy on the School's website.

6. Board Approval

a) Subject to 5b) and 5d) below, the authority for the acceptance of proposed donations is delegated to the Director of Communications, Marketing and Development with the expectation that their responsibility to ensure compliance with the School's Charitable Objects, its Articles of Association, its other legal obligations and this and its other relevant policies is clearly understood and will be consistently applied.

b) Where there is any risk that a proposed donation could be outside the School's Charitable Objects and/or involve a breach by it of its Articles of Association or any other legal obligation or this or any other relevant policy, the Director of Communications, Marketing and Development will take related advice from the Clerk to the Governors. If there remain concerns, the proposed donation shall be referred promptly to the Board of Governors. In that event it shall be for the Board of Governors to decide whether the proposed donation shall be accepted and if so on what terms.

c) If the Director of Communications, Marketing and Development suspects that there may be a risk as described in 5b) above, it is their responsibility, straightaway and if at all possible before an 'ask' has been made to seek relevant advice from the Clerk to the Governors. In the event that there remain concerns, the Director of Communications, Marketing and Development is to alert the Headmistress, and the Chair of the Governors, and to provide them with a written briefing as to the nature of the approach and the source of concern. The Headmistress and Chair of the Governors will then decide whether or not further discussion with the potential donor is required.

d) The Chair of Governors must be informed of any donation that exceeds £50,000 in cash or in-kind.

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e) Where a donor wishes to make a donation, which is outside the School's Charitable Objects or would otherwise involve a breach of any legal obligation on the part of the School, it is confirmed for the avoidance of doubt that the Board of Governors must decline to accept the donation.

7. Conflict of Interest

To avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest, board members that have a financial or other interest relevant to a proposed donation or to the donor shall excuse themselves from the vote to consider that donation.

8. Money Laundering

The School is subject to money laundering regulations in respect of donations whether received overseas or in the UK. The School cannot be party to laundering money by receiving a donation from any source and then giving some or all of it back to the donor or his / her designated representative. In this context all donations that are given to the School for a general or specific purpose agreed by the School are "non refundable", and the School's statutory accounts will treat all donations as non-refundable income. However the School will comply with its money laundering obligations in line with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice (2025) which may involve a refund, on an exceptional basis, where we are not satisfied of the donation's source or origin.

For all material donations or for donations made from overseas, the School will always seek to establish and verify the identity and address of an individual in an appropriate manner.

9. Complaints

This complaints policy only applies to the School's fundraising work. Parents should use the School Complaints procedure which is available on the School's website for all other complaints regarding the School.

If you wish to have more information on how we collect data for fundraising purposes, please see our Fundraising and Development Privacy Notice available on our website.

Channing School is committed to delivering a high standard of service to anyone who engages with our development and fundraising activities. We are keen to hear from anyone, including staff and volunteers, who believe we have fallen short of the high standards we set ourselves. The School will record and regularly review complaints and use any relevant learning to make improvements to future fundraising. We encourage staff to use the School's Whistleblowing Policy to raise any concern they may have about the School's fundraising practices and procedures.

You can provide feedback by phone on:

0208 340 2328 or email **info@channing.co.uk**

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Alternatively, you can write to the following address:

The Headmistress, Channing School, The Bank, Highgate, N6 5HF

We will acknowledge and provide an initial response to your feedback within five working days of receiving it. Whilst we expect to be able to resolve most complaints within that time frame, if we need to conduct a more in-depth investigation, we will aim to provide you with a full response within 28 working days.

If we are unable to meet that deadline due to exceptional circumstances, we will of course let you know.

If you are not happy with the response you receive, you can escalate your concerns to The Chair of Governors, who will consider the matter in more detail. The Chair of Governors can be contacted at:

Chair of Governors
Channing School
The Bank
Highgate
London
N65HF

Or at chairman@channing.co.uk

If your complaint is about our fundraising activities and we are unable to resolve it to your satisfaction you can contact the Fundraising Regulator - www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk

Fundraising Regulator
50 Featherstone Street
London
EC1Y 8RT