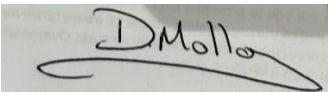
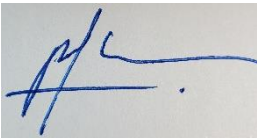




First **Star** Scholars **UK**

Fundraising Policy

Date of Last Review	18/11/2024
Review Cycle	Annually
Date (Month/Year) of Next Review	11/2025
Date Policy was Ratified	18/11/2024
Named Lead for Writing/Review	Emily Hollis MBE
Signed:	Date
CEO	18/11/24
	
FSSUK Board of Trustees – Chair	
	

Introduction

First Star Scholars UK is committed to raising funds to support its educational initiatives and services for care experienced children and young people (CYP), through ethical and transparent fundraising activities. This policy outlines the procedures, guidelines, and principles governing fundraising activities within the organisation to ensure compliance with relevant regulations, uphold public trust, and ensure that funds are used effectively and responsibly.

Objectives of the Fundraising Policy

- To ensure that all fundraising activities conducted by or on behalf of First Star Scholars UK are consistent with our mission, values, and goals.
- To establish clear guidelines to ensure ethical practices, transparency, and accountability in all fundraising activities.
- To ensure that all funds raised are used in accordance with the intended purpose and for the benefit of CYP in care.
- To comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and the Charities Act 2011.

Ethical Principles

- Transparency: All donations will be recorded and reported accurately. We will provide clear and transparent information to donors about how their funds will be used.
- Respect and Dignity: We will ensure that all individuals and communities who support First Star Scholars UK are treated with respect and dignity. We will respect the rights of donors to make informed decisions about their donations and allow them to remain anonymous if they choose.
- Accountability: We will ensure that all funds raised are used efficiently, effectively, and in line with the objectives for which they were given. We will provide regular updates on how donations are spent and the outcomes achieved.
- Non-coercive Fundraising: We will ensure that all fundraising activities are conducted in a manner that is not coercive or unduly pressurising donors. We will avoid any form of manipulation, distress, or guilt-driven tactics in fundraising.
- Inclusivity: First Star Scholars UK will ensure that fundraising activities are open to everyone, regardless of background or ability to contribute, and will provide an opportunity for people to support the charity at all levels.

Fundraising Activities

First Star Scholars UK will engage in a wide range of fundraising activities, which may include:

- Individual Donations: Encouraging one-off or regular financial contributions from individuals.
- Corporate Partnerships: Developing partnerships with businesses and corporations for sponsorship, donations, and other forms of support.
- Grants and Trusts: Applying for funding from charitable trusts, foundations, and grant-making bodies.
- Events and Campaigns: Organising and running fundraising events such as charity dinners, auctions, sponsored activities, and online campaigns.

- Online Fundraising: Utilising online platforms, crowdfunding sites, and social media to raise funds.
- Community Fundraising: Encouraging local communities to support our cause through fundraising events, collection drives, and volunteer-led initiatives.

Responsibilities for Fundraising

- CEO and Senior Leadership Team: The CEO, in collaboration with the senior leadership team, is responsible for ensuring the overall management and oversight of fundraising efforts. The CEO will ensure that fundraising practices align with the charity's mission and adhere to this policy.
- Fundraising Staff/Volunteers: Staff and volunteers who are directly involved in fundraising must undergo relevant training on ethical fundraising practices, data protection, safeguarding, and compliance with relevant regulations.
- Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that all fundraising activities are carried out with integrity, transparency, and in accordance with the law. Trustees will review fundraising outcomes regularly and monitor financial reporting.

Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements

First Star Scholars UK is committed to complying with all relevant laws and regulations in relation to fundraising, including but not limited to:

- The Charities Act 2011
- The Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice
- Data Protection Legislation (GDPR)
- The Companies Act 2006 (for governance and reporting purposes)
- Gambling Commission

We will also ensure compliance with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) guidelines where applicable, particularly in relation to Gift Aid and tax relief for donors.

Transparency in Use of Funds

We are committed to ensuring that funds raised are used as intended and that donors are kept informed about the impact of their contributions. The following measures will be taken to ensure transparency:

- Fundraising Reports: We will provide regular reports to stakeholders on the amount of funds raised and how they have been allocated.
- Restricted Funds: Where donations are made for specific projects or purposes, we will ensure that funds are used only for the designated purpose and clearly communicate this to donors.
- Annual Reports and Accounts: We will publish annual reports and accounts that include detailed information on fundraising income and expenditure, demonstrating the effectiveness of our fundraising efforts.

Donor Rights and Communication

We recognise that donors have the right to:

- Receive clear, accurate, and honest information about First Star Scholars UK’s work, financial position, and how their funds will be used.
- Be acknowledged and thanked for their contributions in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Be treated with respect and have their privacy protected in accordance with data protection laws.
- Opt-out of receiving further fundraising communications and have their preferences respected.

We will ensure that all communications with donors are respectful and reflect the values of First Star Scholars UK.

Data Protection and Privacy

First Star Scholars UK will handle all personal data in compliance with data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This includes ensuring that donors’ personal details are kept confidential and only used for the purposes of fundraising and communication with consent. We will never sell or share donor information with third parties without their explicit consent.

Complaints and Feedback

First Star Scholars UK values feedback from donors and stakeholders. Any concerns or complaints related to fundraising activities will be addressed promptly. Our complaints policy outlines how donors can make a complaint, and the process for reviewing and resolving complaints in a fair and transparent manner.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the effectiveness of our fundraising efforts and continuous improvement, First Star Scholars UK will regularly review and assess our fundraising activities. This will involve:

- Monitoring the success of fundraising campaigns and events.
- Reviewing feedback from donors and stakeholders.
- Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of fundraising activities.
- Identifying opportunities to improve fundraising strategies.

We are committed to learning from our experiences and ensuring that our fundraising practices align with best practices and the needs of our donors.

Version Control - Approval and Review

Version No.	Approved by	Approval Date	Main Change	Review Period
1.0	Diarmuid Molloy	18 November 2024	New policy format approved	Annually