

UKMT Donations and Sponsorship policy

Draft

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils. We were established in 1996 and have now built up to the point where over 600,000 pupils from 4000 schools take part in the three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competitions. Each challenge leads into a follow-on Olympiad round and we also run mentoring schemes and summer schools for high performing students as well as training the team of six to represent the UK in the International Mathematical Olympiad. We also run team maths competitions for two age ranges, publish books and organise enrichment seminars for teachers.

The UKMT relies upon a balance of financial resources, coming from entry fees for its mathematics competitions, grants from public sector sources (when they are available), and sponsorship and charitable donations. The Council of the UKMT is ultimately responsible for determining the use of funding and ensuring that it advances our mission which is, as stated above, “to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics.” In deciding whether to accept or refuse a particular donation or offer of sponsorship, Council is required, by Charity Law, to consider which course will, taking an overall view, be in the charity’s best interest.

It is clearly in the interests of the UKMT to diversify its sources of funding in order to increase its ability to pursue its mission and to safeguard its activities in times of economic difficulty. Fundraising from sponsors and donors is therefore an important element of ensuring the financial resources to achieve the UKMT’s core objectives.

Maintaining the independence and reputation of the UKMT is paramount for all funding relationships. In every funding relationship the UKMT will consistently reserve the right to:

- Control the standards and entry criteria for all its competitions and activities
- Control the selection of committee members and volunteers for any of its activities
- Ensure that all its child protection policies are adhered to; the safety and appropriate privacy of all children and young people involved in UKMT activities is paramount

The UKMT recognises the right of sponsors and donors to be given agreed recognition, and for them to be involved appropriately in events organised by UKMT, but it will not accept support or enter into a partnership where

- Its independence or freedom of action are unreasonably constrained

- Its exercise of judgement on policy matters or within the conduct of competitions or the selection of teams is impeded
- The source of funding is illegal or of doubtful legality
- Its association with a particular partner would bring the Trust's reputation for independence and excellence into doubt
- It is felt that partners might put undue pressure on participants in UKMT activities to buy or otherwise make use of particular goods and services, or to take part in, or otherwise support or subscribe to, a partner's trade, business or other activities.

In case of doubt, Council will exercise the final judgement about the desirability of a proposed partnership or funding arrangement. Development activities are routinely reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to Council.