

Trusts that will consider applications for help meeting the cost of school fees where there is a genuine need

Updated January 2011

Eligibility criteria

In cases of genuine need, charitable grant-making trusts can sometimes help parents to meet the cost of school fees at independent schools.

- *Helping children to stay at their current school*

Some trusts will help families where a child already attends an independent school but is at risk of having to leave due to an unforeseen change in financial circumstances caused by, for example, serious ill health or the death of a parent.

- *Enabling children to attend a new school*

Some trusts will provide financial support to enable children to attend independent schools – especially where it can be demonstrated that the child's needs cannot be met sufficiently elsewhere. Trusts sometimes meet the cost of boarding, for example, where the home environment is unsuitable due to the disability or illness of a family member.

Making an application

Some trusts issue application forms while others require applications in writing, often restricted an A4 sheet. Guidance notes are usually provided, which should be followed carefully. The SCIS leaflet, *Meeting the Cost of School Fees*, available online at <http://www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/meeting-the-cost> contains guidance on constructing applications to trusts to best effect.

Application deadlines

The trustees of grant-making trusts usually meet quarterly (larger trusts) or annually (smaller ones) to allocate the trust's funds to the most deserving applicants. Applications should be submitted one month prior to the date of the next trustees meeting. You are advised to telephone the trust or check its website the find out the deadline.

A-Z of educational trusts

Below is a list of some grant-making trusts that might be able to help meet the cost of school fees where there is a genuine need.

Please consider carefully the eligibility criteria for each trust before making an application since the number of applications trusts receive often far outweighs the available funds.

Other useful sources of information are given at the end of this document.

Aberdeen Endowments Trust

Awards are made to secondary school children according to financial need and performance.

Please note that most support is given to pupils at Robert Gordon's College. Application forms are available from the Correspondent, Mr W Russell, and applications are considered at the start of each month except January, July and August.

19 Albert Street, Aberdeen AB25 1QF

Telephone 01224 640194

BMTA Trust Limited

Short-term grants are provided for **children over the age of 13 who are already attending an independent school, to help them complete their current stage of education when parents/guardians find themselves in unforeseen financial difficulties.** Only in exceptional circumstances of social need are children assisted to start at an independent day or boarding school. No help is provided for sixth-form education. Preference is given to applicants with a motor industry connection.

Contact Carol Wildig

4 Oak Way, Ashted, Surrey KT21 1LQ

Tel 01372 210124

Email bmtatrust@yahoo.co.uk

Eleanor Hamilton Educational Trust

Grants for fee support for the second years of GCSE or A-level. Exceptionally, the first year of these courses can be considered. **The Trust supports the most vulnerable families and thus has recently (November 2010) changed its criteria to help families in usually unforeseen financial hardship at a crucial point in a child's education, plus an additional need, such as a medical condition, a learning difficulty, recent family bereavement, social or mental health issues.**

Contact Ms Katherine Hoare

65 Bolsover Road, Hove, BN3 5HQ

Tel 01273 279352

Email ehamiltonet@virginmedia.com

Emmott Foundation

Grants for sixth form education for pupils expected to go on to Higher Education, whose parents face an unexpected family, medical or economic crisis. Except in exceptional circumstances, a majority of predicted or actual 'A' grades are required.

*Paul and Julie Spillane
136 Browns Lane, Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Nottinghamshire NG12 5BN
Email emmottfoundation@btopenworld.com*

Frank Buttle Trust

The Trust **makes grants towards fees at boarding schools, both independent and state, and fees at independent day schools.** In the year ended 31st March 2009, we supported 300 children with grants, totalling £824,824. These grants provide **assistance for those children whose educational needs cannot be met within the state system or whose family circumstances necessitate a boarding education.** If, for instance, your child is experiencing **significant social/family problems and struggling to survive in the state education system** then financial support to attend school in the independent sector may be a lifeline. The children we help are extremely vulnerable, and sometimes the only alternative to receiving a School Fee grant is being taken into public care.

*The Frank Buttle Trust, PO Box 5075, G78 4WA
Tel: 01505 850 437
Website www.buttletrust.org/
Email scotland@buttletrust.org*

Lethendy Trust

The **advancement of education is one of the trust's three areas of work.** It will help young people in need who live in Scotland, although it has a **preference for Tayside.** Grants can be one-off or reoccurring. Apply in writing to the correspondent, George Hay.

*Henderson Loggie, Royal Exchange, Dundee DD1 1DZ
Telephone 01382 200055
Email ghay@hendersonloggie.co.uk*

Lloyd Foundation

The foundation **provides help for any child of a British citizen who is in need of financial assistance to obtain a British education while the parent is overseas.**

*Fairway, Round Oak View, Tillington, Herefordshire HR4 8EQ
Tel 01432 760 409*

RN & RM Children's Fund

Support is given to **children of serving and retired Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who are in need of care and assistance.** Grants are given towards education where a **social need is proven.** The age range is generally 5-18. Applications can be made at any time through the secretary.

*311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 8PE
Tel 02392 639534
Email rnchildren@btconnect.com*

Reedham Trust

The Reedham Trust is a grant making body which **supports children throughout the UK who, through the death or disablement of one or both parents, are in urgent need of assistance and care or who are at risk or cannot be cared for adequately in the home environment.** The children **may also have special needs from having suffered psychologically because of disruptive or damaging home lives.** The Trust provides grants to children whose home circumstances are so unsatisfactory that a **boarding school placement is essential in order to provide them with the stable and caring environment they so desperately need.** **Consideration is given to finding the most appropriate school for the child so that talents can be fostered and difficulties understood.** However, the whole emphasis of the Trust is on boarding need rather than educational need. The Trust is currently able to provide annual financial support in the region of £320,000, which contributes towards the care of about 130 children in approximately 60 boarding schools throughout the UK. These are the fortunate ones. Many more equally needy children have to be turned away because of lack of funds.

Contact Jean Watkins, Secretary

The Lodge, 23 Old Lodge Lane, Purley, Surrey CR8 4DJ

Tel 020 8660 1461

Email info@reedham-trust.org.uk

Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

The trust was established in 1815 to **help educate the sons and daughters of Scots who were serving, or who had served, in the armed forces, and the children of poor Scots in London.** Today, almost two hundred years later, the work continues in a way, which, we believe still meets our founders' intentions. **We help with educational grants for school clothing, school trips, school fees** and help with living expenses for those in further or higher education. Our founders set no age limit so the Caley can also help with those who need a second educational chance.

Unit 75, Wenta Business Park, Colne Way, Herts WD24 7ND

Tel 01923 215 350

Email admin@rcst.org.uk

Royal Medical Foundation (RMF)

The RMF assists medical practitioners and their dependants who are in financial hardship. Grants are awarded for the payment of school fees for children aged 11-18.

College Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 4JQ

Tel 01372 821 011

Email caseworker@royalmedicalfoundation.org

Website www.royalmedicalfoundation.org

Royal Merchant Navy School Foundation

The foundation offers educational support to orphans and needy children of all grades of merchant seafarers. The foundation makes grants to fund up to 100% of fees at independent (boarding and day) secondary schools.

Bear Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5BG

Tel 0118 978 1865/4208

School Fees Charitable Trust

Awards made **to assist those parents who, having selected private education for their child with reasonable expectations of being able to meet the costs from their own resources, are unable to pay the fees as a result of financial hardship, arising from a severe change in circumstances.** Grants are made to cover the final GCSE year, A1 and A2 years, or equivalent examinations. Applications in writing to the Trust Secretary.

*Crossways House, 54/60 South Street, Dorking PH4 2HQ
Tel 01306 746 303*

Thornton Smith & Plevins Young People's Trusts

Both trusts assist with the education of able pupils. Grants are generally given to young people already in the independent school system and who are about to begin, or who have already begun, their A level courses.

*298 Icknield Way, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 2JS
Tel 01582 611 675*

John Watson's Trust

The Trust **awards grants to under 21-year-olds with either a physical or learning disability or who are in a situation of deprivation.** The grants have to be **for educational purposes** and are **awarded both to individuals and to groups and organisations working with eligible young people.** Grants are awarded **primarily to individuals and groups in the Lothians** but can also be awarded elsewhere in Scotland. **The grants committee meets approximately six times a year and has an annual budget of approximately £150,000 to disburse in grants ranging from £30 to £2,000.** Over the last few years grants have been awarded for dyslexia tuition, school trips (PLEASE NOTE that applications for class trips to outdoor residential centres such as Benmore, Lagganlia etc can now only be made by schools NOT individuals), bus passes, books and equipment, college expenses, drama, dance and music tuition, special equipment, costs to attend the Special Olympics and computers (where there is a special educational need). **The Trust also awards a few grants each year towards boarding school fees; however, these are exceptional cases and where personal circumstances make a boarding option beneficial. No day school fees are funded.**

*Iola Wilson, Administrator, The Merchants Hall, 22 Hanover Street, Edinburgh EH2 2EP
Telephone 0131 220 1640
Email johnwatsons@onetel.com
Website www.johnwatsons.com*

Royal National Children's Foundation

Boarding School can transform a child's life: The Royal Wanstead Children's Foundation is a registered charity helping vulnerable children of single parents (or other carers) whose scope for normal happy development is prejudiced by chronic problems in the home. **We work with other charities to provide the funding to place these children in boarding schools on a weekly or termly basis. This approach provides a high level of care and stability for the children and alleviates much of the pressure within the home whilst enabling the family bonds to be maintained.**

Royal Wanstead and Joint Educational Trust (JET) merged on 1st December 2010 to create the Royal National Children's Foundation.

Contact: Mrs Chris Hughes
Sandy Lane, Cobham, Surrey, KY11 2ES
Email director@royalwanstead.org.uk
Telephone 01932 868622
Website www.royalwanstead.org.uk

Other sources of information

Directories of trusts available in public libraries

The reference section of most public libraries contains a number of directories of grant-making trusts, many of them published by the Directory of Social Change. The only charge will be for any photocopying, which will be modest compared to the cost of purchasing directories - now in excess of £100. For every trust listed in a directory, the following information is usually included:

- Name of trust
- Name of the Secretary/Correspondent to whom applications should be made
- Contact details
- Names of trustees
- The months of the year when the trustees meet to allocate funds
- Eligibility criteria for applicants
- Guidance notes for applicants are often included

A Guide to Scottish Trusts

The book is an A-Z, organised by geographic areas, of around 350 trusts which concentrate their grant-making in Scotland. Records usually include details such as eligibility criteria, application process, guidance notes for applicants, the amount of money distributed each year, an indication of the size of a typical grant, examples of projects that have been funded in the past, names of trustees, months when they meet to make awards, contact details etc.

Directory of Grant Making Trusts

The first section of the book is organised according by type of grant, type of beneficiary and geographic area. For each, there are categories and sub-categories e.g. Education, divided into public and independent schools, faith schools, primary and secondary education, special needs schools. Under each heading, trusts are listed according to whether the topic is a 'funding priority' or something they 'will consider'. The next step is to look up each trust in the A-Z section of the directory, which provides a full profile, similar to the one described in the Guide to Scottish Trusts, above.

The Educational Grants Directory

The most useful section is "Scotland" where trusts are listed alphabetically, with profiles. Unlike the two directories, above, each local authority's educational trust is included. The directory states, "*Local Authorities vary in the way they make grants to parents of children in independent schools. If you can demonstrate a need for boarding education and also show how the maintained schools sector cannot meet that need, then the local authority may help with the costs of boarding and/or tuition fees.*" This is also the case where children have additional support needs, such as social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and need to attend a Special School. There is also a section on statutory funding and on independent and boarding schools.

Online information about educational trusts

The websites, listed below, also contain useful information about educational trusts.

<http://www.funderfinder.org.uk/>

<http://www.trustfunding.org.uk/>

<http://www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk/>

SCIS website page and leaflet on 'Meeting the Cost of School Fees'

Information about financial assistance is provided at <http://www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/meeting-the-cost> where the leaflet, *Meeting the Cost of School Fees*, gives guidance about constructing applications to best effect.

For further information contact Sarah at Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) on 0131 220 2106 or visit www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/meeting-the-cost