

Complete the gap with a word deriving from the word in CAPITALS.

A number of UK private schools (1) _____ to be taking advantage of their charitable status and the lax legal definition of “public benefit” by charging fees that are increasingly disproportionate (2) _____ their ongoing costs.

Around 1,300 UK private schools, (3) _____ the vast majority of the most famous private institutions, enjoy long-standing charitable status. This gives them significant tax advantages but compels them to use their charitable resources for public benefit.

Our research, carried over the last four years, focuses (4) _____ how these schools acquire, sustain and use their wealth, and on the associated thin transparency and accountability regimes that have been (5) _____ on for more than a century.

We found that some of these schools have more than doubled their fees over the (6) _____ two decades, which appears to suggest that they are charging by what parents can pay, rather than their actual costs.

Charging very high fees while offering discounts that mostly help the already-wealthy can be justified (7) _____ legitimately charitable and delivering public benefit. (8) _____, the limited nature of the level and reach of fee remissions is often vague, given their – quite legitimate – treatment in private schools’ financial accounts.

Alexandros Vouyouklis www.fleximedia.gr