



# Joydens Wood Infant School

## Gifts and Hospitality Policy

### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The academy trust's funds are used only in accordance with the law, its articles of association, its funding agreement and the latest Academies Financial Handbook
- The trust and those associated with it operate in a way that commands broad public support
- The trust has due regard to propriety and regularity, and ensures value for money, in the use of public funds
- Trustees fulfil their fiduciary duties and wider responsibilities as charitable trustees and company directors
- Members, trustees and staff are aware of what constitutes acceptable gifts and hospitality, and the process that must be followed if they are presented with any of the same

### 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the [Academies Financial Handbook](#), which states that academy trusts should have a policy and register on the acceptance of gifts, hospitality, awards, prizes or any other benefit which might be seen to compromise the personal judgement or integrity of members, trustees, staff and/or any other representative of the trust.

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

### 3. Definitions

**Gifts** are any items, cash, awards, prizes, goods or services, offered without expectation of payment or benefit. Gifts also include goods or services offered at a discounted rate, or on terms not available to the general public.

**Hospitality** is defined as food, drink, accommodation or entertainment (such as cultural or sporting events) provided free of charge, heavily discounted or on terms not generally available to the general public.

### 4. Roles and responsibilities

#### 4.1 Members, trustees and staff

Members, trustees and staff:

- Must not give or accept gifts or hospitality to or from a third party where it might be perceived that their personal integrity has the potential to be compromised, or that the trust might be placed under any obligation as a result of acceptance
- Must not use their official position to further their private interests or the interests of others
- Must not solicit gifts or hospitality

- Must record any gifts or hospitality offered to them even if declined
- Must consult the Headteacher before accepting or offering any gifts or hospitality.

## **4.2 Academy trustees**

Academy trustees will ensure that the trust's funds are used in a way that commands broad public support, pays due regard to propriety and regularity, and provides value for money.

## **4.3 The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of and understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently.

The Headteacher will act with the utmost integrity on all matters relating to gifts and hospitality, ensuring that they set a good example to the rest of the school and trust and to those outside the organisation.

They will also ensure, alongside the School Business Manager, that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality are in line with this policy.

## **4.4 The School Business Manager**

The School Business Manager will ensure that:

- The trust maintains a gifts and hospitality register
- Figures for transactions relating to gifts made by the trust are disclosed in the trust's audited accounts, in accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- The academy trustees and Headteacher are provided with information on gifts and hospitality received and given, as appropriate

They will also ensure, alongside the Headteacher, that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality with a value of are in line with this policy.

## **4.5 The Business Manager**

The Business Manager is responsible for maintaining the gifts and hospitality register on a day-to-day basis.

# **5. Acceptable gifts and hospitality**

## **5.1 Offers of gifts and hospitality received**

Generally, gifts of nominal value, such as small tokens of appreciation may be accepted, such as thank you gifts received from pupils and parents. Any gifts received over £150 must be recorded using the school's electronic system (CPOMs)

Similarly, hospitality such as working lunches may be accepted in order to maintain good relationships with key contacts, provided the hospitality is reasonable in the circumstances.

Any gifts or hospitality provided by the trust, such as a working lunch for visitors, must not be extravagant. Alcohol must not be purchased out of the school budget.

Expense claims should be made to the School Business Manager and receipts must always be enclosed.

# **6. Unacceptable gifts and hospitality**

The following must never be offered or accepted:

- Monetary gifts
- Gifts or hospitality offered to family members, partners or close friends of members, trustees or staff
- Gifts or hospitality from a potential supplier or tenderer in the immediate period before tenders are invited or during the tendering process
- Lavish or extravagant gifts or hospitality, even if they relate to activities the recipient undertakes in their own time .
- This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

## **7. Declining gifts and hospitality**

Any members, trustee or staff member who is offered any of the unacceptable gifts or hospitality outlined in section 6 above should politely decline the offer.

Disciplinary action will be taken against anyone who fails to decline gifts or hospitality the trust has deemed unacceptable.

Failure to declare any gifts or hospitality offered on the gifts and hospitality register, in line with this policy, will be dealt with as a staff disciplinary matter.

## **8. Monitoring arrangements**

The gifts and hospitality register is monitored regularly by the School Business Manager.

## Appendix 1: gifts and hospitality register

Date	Name	Description of gift/hospitality and approximate value	Party offering gift/hospitality	Accepted/rejected	Approved by