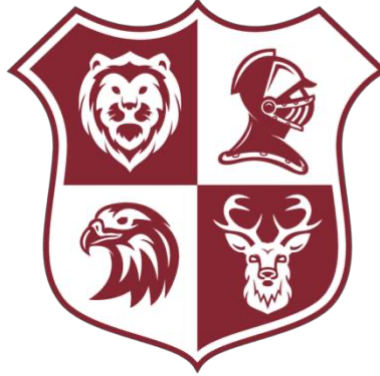


Gifts and Hospitality Policy



STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY	NON-STATUTORY
MEMBER OF STAFF RESPONSIBLE	CFO
DATE APPROVED BY HEAD/SLT	March 2023
GOVERNING BODY OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	General Purpose
DATE OF FULL GOVERNING BODY APPROVAL	March 2023
REVISION DUE DATE	March 2025

CONTENTS2

1. AIMS3

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE.....3

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES3

4. ACCEPTABLE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY.....4

5. UNACCEPTABLE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY5

6. DECLINING GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY.....5

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS5

8. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES6

APPENDIX 1: GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER.....7

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 Academy Trust 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 gifts or hospitality.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the Academy Trust 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. Roles and responsibilities

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 because 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 or the trust with a value of [over £25/other value set by the trust] on the gifts and hospitality register (see appendix 1) within 7 working days, even if declined.
- Must consult the Chief Financial Officer or Headteacher before accepting or offering any gifts or hospitality with a value of £25 and over.

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.

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 Chief Financial Officer, that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality with a value of over £25 are in line with this policy.

The chief financial officer (CFO)

The CFO 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 Academy Trust Handbook
- Trustees and the CFO are provided with information on gifts and hospitality received and given, as appropriate.

They will also ensure, alongside the CFO that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality with a value of over £25 are in line with this policy.

The Finance Team

The finance team are responsible for maintaining the gifts and hospitality register on a day-to-day basis.

Parents

Information in this policy can be viewed by parents – for example, to explain restrictions on giving gifts to teachers in line with your trust's approach. As such, Noadswood:

- Do not discourage all gift-giving, and that small tokens of gratitude are always appreciated.
- Do provide guidance on the appropriate value of gifts and circumstances when they may be offered or explain that the trust prevents teachers and other staff from accepting gifts worth over a certain amount.

4 Acceptable gifts and hospitality

Offer of gifts and hospitality received.

Members, trustees, and staff can accept gifts and hospitality that have a value of up to £25. These do not have to be pre-approved or recorded on the gifts and hospitality register.

Generally, gifts of nominal value, such as small tokens of appreciation, may be accepted. If in any doubt, members, trustees, and staff must consult the CFO or Headteacher.

Similarly, hospitality such as working lunches may be accepted to maintain good relationships with key contacts, provided the hospitality is reasonable in the circumstances. If in doubt, guidance must be sought from the CFO or Headteacher.

Any gifts or hospitality offered with a value of over £25 must be recorded on the gifts and hospitality register within 7 working days, even if declined. Any member, trustee or member of staff who is offered such gifts or hospitality must consult the CFO or Headteacher before accepting.

If the Headteacher is the recipient, or intended recipient, of **any** offer of gifts or hospitality, they must inform the Chair of the board of trustees and record the offer on the gifts and hospitality register.

Failure to declare any offer of gifts or hospitality on the register in line with this policy will be treated as a staff disciplinary matter.

Offer of gifts and hospitality given

Any gifts or hospitality provided by the Trust, such as a working lunch for visitors, must not be extravagant. A maximum value of £25 per head should be used as a guideline.

Under no circumstance should alcohol purchase with school funds.

Expense claims should be made to the finance team and receipts must always be enclosed. The CFO or Headteacher must be consulted about any proposal to provide gifts or hospitality with a value of over £25.

5 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.

6 Declining gifts and hospitality

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

If they feel it would not be appropriate for them to decline, they should refer the matter to the headteacher or CFO. The headteacher or CFO may decline the offer or donate the gift or hospitality to a worthy cause and must also record the offer on the gifts and hospitality register.

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.

7 Monitoring arrangements

The gifts and hospitality register are monitored regularly by the finance team.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and approved by the General-Purpose Committee

8 Links with other policies

This gifts and hospitality policy is linked to the:

- Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy
- Finance policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Staff disciplinary procedures

Appendix 1: Gifts and Hospitality Register

Date	Name	Description of gift / hospitality + approximate value	Party offering gift or hospitality	Accepted / Rejected	Approved by