

## ST JAMES' GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY

This policy has the School's Motto at its heart.

**Faith in action,**

**Growing together,**

**Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

### 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- The 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 or the trust with a value of over £30 on the gifts and hospitality register (see appendix 1) within 7 working days, even if declined
- Must consult the Head teacher before accepting or offering any gifts or hospitality with a value of over £30 from individuals.

#### 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 Head teacher**

The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of and understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently. The Head teacher is responsible for maintaining the gifts and hospitality register on a day-to-day basis. The Head teacher 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 Finance Manager, that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality with a value of over £30 from individuals are in line with this policy.

#### **4.4 The Finance Manager**

The Finance 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 head teacher are provided with information on gifts and hospitality received and given, as appropriate

They will also ensure, alongside the Head teacher, that decisions on whether individuals or the trust can accept or offer gifts or hospitality with a value of over £30 from individuals are in line with this policy.

### **5. Acceptable gifts and hospitality**

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

Members, trustees and staff can accept gifts and hospitality that have a value of up to £30. 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 head teacher.

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. If in doubt, guidance must be sought from the head teacher.

Any gifts or hospitality offered with a value of over £30 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 gifts or hospitality with a value over £30 from individuals must consult the Head teacher before accepting.

If the Head teacher is the recipient, or intended recipient, of any offer of gifts or hospitality over £30 from individuals, 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.

#### **5.2 Offers 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 £30 per head should be used as a guideline.

Alcohol must not be purchased out of the school budget.

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

The head teacher must be consulted about any proposal to provide gifts or hospitality with a value of over £30.

## 6. Unacceptable gifts and hospitality

The following must never be offered or accepted:

- Cash 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.

If they feel it would not be appropriate for them to decline, they should refer the matter to the head teacher. The head teacher 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.

## 8. Links with other policies

This gifts and hospitality policy is linked to the:

- Staff code of conduct
- Staff disciplinary procedures
- Finance Policy

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new government guidance.

It was last reviewed in summer 2022 and it will next be reviewed in summer 2025

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date:   3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022  

Signed:

  Mary Hutchinson   (Chairperson)

  L Weech   (Head teacher)

## Appendix 1: Gifts and Hospitality Register

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