



# Oak View Academy

Believe, Expect, Succeed

## Gifts and Hospitality Policy

### **Why do we have guidance on gifts and hospitality?**

Your conduct as a member of staff or a governor should never lead anyone to question your interests, or lead anyone to think that you have been influenced by gifts and hospitality. This is important because your own personal reputation and that of the School could be seriously affected if you inappropriately accept a gift or hospitality. It is also a criminal offence to demand or accept a gift or reward in return for allowing you to be influenced as a part of the school. This is why the school has guidance which applies to all staff and governors on gifts and hospitality.

### **What is a gift?**

A gift is any item or service that you receive free of charge. It also includes any goods or services which you personally are offered at a discounted rate or on terms not available to the general public.

### **What is hospitality?**

Hospitality is the offer of food, drink, accommodation or entertainment or the opportunity to attend any cultural or sporting event on terms not available to the general public.

### **What gifts or hospitality can be accepted without any approval?**

You can accept gifts and hospitality, which are small gestures and have a value of £30 or less, without the approval of the Headteacher. Gifts and hospitality of this nature do not need to be recorded in the school's Gifts and Hospitality Register.

### **What things should I think about before I decide what to do?**

You should treat with caution any offer of gift or hospitality made to you personally. In particular, think about whether there is a benefit to the school in you accepting, the scale, amount, frequency and source of the offer, the timing of the offer in relation to forthcoming decisions and whether accepting could be misinterpreted as a sign of your, or the school's, support or favour.

### **What gifts or hospitality need approval from the Headteacher or Chair of Governors?**

Any gift or hospitality that is more than just a token, defined as a having a value of more than £30, should be politely refused or returned. You must have the prior written approval of the Headteacher if you decide to accept something that has more than this value. This should only be in exceptional circumstances. If you or your Headteacher has any concerns or doubts about the public perception that might be attached to accepting any gift or hospitality, then you must refer it to the Chair of Governors.

### **What gifts or hospitality should never be accepted?**

You must never accept:

- Cash or monetary gifts.
- Gifts or hospitality offered to your husband, wife, partner, family member or friend.
- Gifts or hospitality from a potential supplier or tenderer in the immediate period before tenders are invited or during the tender process.
- Lavish or extravagant gifts or hospitality, even if they relate to activities in your own time.

### **What should I do if I receive a gift without warning?**

If you estimate that the gift is more than just a token you should politely and courteously decline the gift. If you feel that it would not be appropriate to do this, you should refer the matter to your Headteacher as soon as possible and let the Headteacher decide what you should do with the gift. Your Headteacher may decide to return the gift, may ask the Chair of Governors for a view, or may donate the gift to a worthy local cause.

Written: March 2017

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