



Little Heath School

Gifts and Hospitality Policy

Reviewed 11/02/19

This policy was adopted on 06/03/2019
The policy is to be reviewed on 11/02/2022

Signed Chair of governors)

GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

1. Gifts and Inducements to an employee

Where a business contact ¹ offers a personal gift, personal payment or other incentive such as secondary employment to an employee, these should not be accepted and should be returned with a suitable official letter. Such offers should be declared to the Governing Body and recorded in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

If it is not possible to return gifts then the employee who deals with that supplier should declare the gift to the Governing Body who will keep a record of it and decide how it is to be used. Such gifts remain the property of the school and should be included in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

The only exceptions to these are:

- Low cost, functional items suitable for business use rather than personal use and displaying the supplier's logo e.g. diaries, calendars and pens. These items may be accepted and do not have to be included in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.
- Gifts offered by parents or students to school staff to express their thanks, such as boxes of chocolates. However, only gifts or gift vouchers with an individual value of £25 or less may be accepted. Such gifts do not have to be declared in writing to the Governing Body or be included in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality. For the avoidance of doubt employees must always refuse gifts of money.

2. Hospitality to an employee

Where hospitality in the form of meals and drinks is offered by a business contact, this is only acceptable where it forms part of a normal business meeting (for example, refreshments at training events or meals at evening meetings). Offers of hospitality to specific events, such as a dinner or sporting event, should only be accepted after authorisation from the Governing Body. These would normally only be approved where there is a clear demonstrable benefit to the school and the hospitality would not expose the school to criticism that the business contact was exerting undue influence. These should be recorded in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality. Visits by employees to exhibitions, demonstrations, conferences, business meals and social functions in connection with the school's business and authorised by the school, shall be at the school's expense.

3. Gifts or hospitality to the school

Where a business contact sends a gift to the school (for example, a stationery supplier sending a gift), these should not be accepted and should be returned to the supplier. Such offers of any value should be declared to the Governing Body and recorded in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality. If it is not possible to return the gift, the employee who usually deals with the supplier should declare the gifts to the Governing Body who will keep a record of it and decide how it is to be used. Such gifts remain the property of the school and should be included in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality. The only exceptions to this are low cost, functional items suitable for business use (as opposed to personal use), such as diaries, calendars or pens, may be accepted and do not have to be declared on the Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

¹ A "business contact" refers to any person, body or organisation with which the school is involved on a financial or charitable basis (including contractors; developers; consultants; regional or national charities). This also includes business contacts who are potential suppliers (e.g. they are, or may, be tendering for future business).

PECUNIARY & DIRECT INTERESTS

1. Relationships

Employees who engage or supervise contractors or have official relationships with contractors and have previously had or currently have a relationship in a private or domestic capacity with the contractor or one of their employees should declare that relationship to their manager and confirm the relationship in writing.

If staff are related to an applicant for a job it must be declared. This includes both internal staff applying for promotion and external applications.

2. Dual Employment

Employees on grade Scale 6 or above are bound by their conditions of service to devote their full time service to the school and are not entitled to engage in any other business or take up any other appointment without the express consent of the Governing Body. Employees covered by this provision must obtain the Governing Body's express written consent before engaging in any other business or taking up any other additional appointment.

Any additional employment must not conflict with or react detrimentally to the school's interest or weaken public confidence in the conduct of the school's business. Where there is any difference of view as to whether or not a particular additional employment would have that effect the Governing Body's view must prevail.

Employees must also declare to their Headteacher, in writing, any non-financial interests which they consider could bring about conflict with the school's interests (e.g. involvement with an organisation or pressure group which may seek to influence the Governing Body's policies).

Employees must declare to the Governing Body in writing any financial interests, which could conflict with the school's interests. A register will be kept of all declaration under the above categories and will be subject to annual review.

3. Personal Interests

Employees must declare to the Governing Body any membership of any organisation, which has secrecy about rules, membership or conduct. Failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action. London Borough of Redbridge Human Resources will maintain a central register of such declarations.

4. Sponsorship – Giving and Receiving

Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor or is seeking to sponsor a school activity, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic principles and conventions concerning acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.