



River Learning Trust

Gifts and Hospitality Policy

Person responsible for policy: Chief Executive

Revised: November 2016

Review Date: November 2018

River Learning Trust

Gifts and Hospitality Policy

Introduction

- As a general guideline, gifts, hospitality or other personal benefits (hereinafter referred to as “Gifts”) should not be accepted or offered by any member of staff, member, trustee or governor, (hereinafter referred to as “Governor”) except as provided for below.
- The intention of the Policy is to ensure that the River Learning Trust can demonstrate that no undue or improper influence has been applied, or could be perceived to have been applied, by any supplier or anyone else dealing with the Trust. The River Learning Trust must be able to show that all decisions, whether educational, financial or otherwise are reached on the basis of the proper application of laid-down procedures and for no other reason.
- Any breach of this Policy could lead to disciplinary action and may constitute gross misconduct.

The Receipt of Gifts

- The Trust encourages and expects governors to use their networks and contacts for its benefit. It is however a fundamental requirement on all staff, members, trustees and governors, the contravention of which would be considered to be gross misconduct, that they must not derive any financial benefit beyond their agreed salary from the decisions they make or contribute to, which involve the education of students, or the spending of the significant sums of public money that are entrusted to the Trust. Therefore governors shall not use their authority or office for personal gain beyond their agreed salary and shall seek to uphold and enhance the standing of the Trust by:
 1. maintaining an unimpeachable standard of honesty and integrity in all their business and other relationships complying with the letter and spirit of the law in contractual obligations.
 2. rejecting any business practice that might be deemed improper at all times in their business and other relationships.
 3. act to maintain the interests and good reputation of the Trust.
- Any employee who becomes aware of a breach of Policy must refer to the Trust’s Whistle Blowing Policy and report the alleged breach immediately to his or her line manager who will instigate investigations as necessary.
- Any personal interest that may impinge, or might reasonably be deemed by others to impinge, on an employee's or governor’s impartiality, or conflict with the duty owed to the Trust in any matter relevant to an employee's or governor’s duties (such as conflicting business interests) shall be declared in writing. Any governor who is aware of any business dealings conferring personal gain, or involving their relatives or associates must make an appropriate entry in the Register of Business Interests.
- Governors are permitted to accept gifts, rewards or benefits from students, students’ families, members of the public, or organisations which the Trust has official contacts with, only where they are isolated gifts of a trivial character, or inexpensive seasonal gifts (such as chocolates, flowers, diaries or calendars). Therefore, gifts should not be accepted if they appear to be disproportionately generous, or could be construed as an inducement to effect a decision or action, whether business, educational, or other.
- Where purchased items include a "free gift", such a gift should be either used for Trust business

or handed to the Trust to be used at charity raffles, pupil prizes, etc.

- In relation to conventional hospitality (lunches, outings, tickets for events, etc.), it may be accepted provided that it is normal and reasonable in the circumstances. However, invitations for the following should not be accepted:
 1. where there is no reasonable business justification for doing so
 2. where an invitation is disproportionately generous
 3. where the invitation could be seen as an inducement to affect a business or other decision.
- Any hospitality, other than of a nominal value (estimate of £50.00) or facilities provided during the normal course of business, should be reported to the Headteacher, Chair of the LGB or Chief Executive (accounting officer for the Trust) as appropriate.

The Providing of Gifts

- The Trust encourages and seeks cooperative relationships between staff, governors, stakeholders and external organisations. Accordingly there can be occasions where it is appropriate for the academy to provide and fund limited gifts, in particular hospitality, which will principally be dealt with in-house. Likewise it may be appropriate for leaving gifts to be provided to staff leaving the employment of the academy, particularly after a long period of service. Such gifts are often supplemented with private contributions from continuing members of staff.