

BURSLEY ACADEMY

GIFT & HOSPITALITY POLICY

This policy is reviewed every two years by the Governors



History of document

Issue No.	Date	Received by Governors	Comments
1	Jan 15	05.02.15	
2	Jun 16	14.06.16	Audit recommendations

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POLICY PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the Gifts & Hospitality pre-approval limits & thresholds.

This guidance applies to all employees, governors, temporary staff & volunteers.

Employees must not offer or accept Gifts or Hospitality except in accordance with this guidance

This guidance does not apply to internal Gifts & Hospitality which do not involve third parties i.e. from one Bursley employee to another Bursley employee or attendance by Bursley at an internal Bursley event.

1 DEFINITIONS OF GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

1.1 Gifts

Gifts are defined as any item of value given or received from a third party (customer, supplier, associated party etc.). Examples include but are not limited to; wine, champagne, jewellery, gift baskets, hampers, legacy bequests.

1.2 Hospitality

Hospitality refers to any hospitality given or received by an employee & includes but is not limited to; meals, drinks, concerts, charitable events, leisure activities, conferences, sporting & social events including related travel, food & accommodation costs which are not paid for by the employee or reimbursed by Bursley.

This does not relate to training events booked in the normal manner.

2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Proportionality

- The Gift or Hospitality should be reasonable & proportionate to the recipient's role (not donor's wealth).
- All Gifts & Hospitality must be clearly connected to a legitimate business activity & have a clear business purpose.
- The giving or receiving does not create an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
- Gifts & Hospitality must not be part of a repeated pattern of giving / receiving from the same individual or supplier in the previous 12 months.
- Employees & their line managers (where approval is required) are responsible for ensuring that the value, frequency & timing of Gifts & Hospitality offered or received do not make them inappropriate or excessive & do not breach the limits & thresholds set in this guidance.

- For hospitality involving spouses &/or family members of employees, the value must be recorded against the member of staff, except for internal Bursley events where there is no requirement to record. Gifts should not be accepted for spouses or family members.

3 PROHIBITED GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Academy Trust staff are prohibited from receiving or giving the following:

- Cash or cash equivalent as detailed in the guidance
- Gifts or Hospitality that would give rise to an obligation or duty.
- Gifts or Hospitality where there is a risk that the offer could have, or perceived to have an influence on a business outcome or decision.
- Gifts or Hospitality that may be linked in any way to bribery & corruption.
- Entertainment of a sexually explicit nature or other types of Gift & Hospitality that could damage the reputation of the Academy Trust.
- Illegal or offensive Gifts & Hospitality or where the employee knows or suspects it would be against the rules of the recipients organisation.
- Gifts or hospitality that would be reasonably be viewed as excessive
- Gifts or hospitality where acceptance could give rise to a perceived or actual conflict of interest.
- Tickets or invitations to events where no employees of the donor organisation are present.

4 RECORDING & LIMITS OF GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

4.1 Recording Requirements

All gifts or hospitality offered or received at valued at £50 or above must be registered in the Gifts & Hospitality Register, **whether accepted or declined**. The Gifts & Hospitality register is located in the Finance office.

5 GIFTS – GIVEN AND RECEIVED

- Giving or receiving cash or cash equivalent gifts e.g. gift vouchers or concert / sporting event ticket where no host is in attendance is prohibited & not acceptable under any circumstances.
- There is no limit to the number of gifts that can be given & received up to £50, but must not be part of a repeated pattern of giving / receiving from the same individual or company in the previous 12 months.
- Gifts of alcohol may be accepted subject to the defined limits detailed in the policy.

6 HOSPITALITY RECEIVED

6.1 Entity Limits

- Hospitality received is limited to a maximum of 5 events that can be accepted from the same third party in any one calendar year per each area of responsibility. This could be 5 staff attending the same event, or 5 staff attending five different events.

6.2 Individual Limits

- Hospitality received, providing it is not prohibited, is limited to a maximum of 2 events or £500 cumulative value in any one year per staff member.

7 HOSPITALITY GIVEN – ENTITY LIMITS

- Hospitality offered to an individual or entity, provided it is not prohibited is limited to 5 events for the same third party per academic year.

Any requests to provide hospitality will require authorisation as follows:

- Where approval for the giving or receiving gifts or hospitality is required, it shall be confirmed in an e-mail by the authoriser (there is no delegation of this duty). Where approval is required, this must be confirmed before any hospitality is offered to the recipient.
- All evidence, including e-mails must be forwarded to the Bursar for 6 year retention in line with financial requirements.
- Any transactions for the Principal (subject to limits) must be approved by the Chair of Governors.

Value of Gift or Hospitality	Recording Required	Approval Required	Approver
Cash gifts or equivalent.	Yes	N/A	All must be declined
Declined Gifts.	Yes	N/A	Chair of Governors
Less than £50.	No	No	N/A
£50 & less than £250.	Yes	Yes	Principal
Above £250.	Yes	Yes	Chair of Governors
Gifts or hospitality of any value where you or the Principal have concerns about compliance with the overall policy.	Yes	Yes	Chair of Governors

Value of Gift or Hospitality	Recording Required	Approval Required	Approver
Attendance by an Employee's spouse / partner at any no- internal Academy Trust Event.	Yes	Yes	Principal / Chair of Governors
Any Gift & Hospitality offered to or received from an individual over the business's pre-approval limit either in a single transaction or cumulatively on a rolling 12 month basis.	Yes	Yes	Chair of Governors

8 DECLINING GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY

- Any Gifts or Hospitality offered to staff in excess of the limits detailed in the guidance must be politely & sensitively declined & recorded in the Gifts & Hospitality Register.
- Whenever possible, decline the gift or invitation at the time it is offered & explain that the Academy Trust has a strict policy in place to prevent conflict of interest.
- It is best to decline in private & in person. However, if this is not possible simply telephone or write a letter expressing regret for declining the gift but thanking the donor for their thoughtfulness.
- In exceptional circumstances, where it may not be possible to return a gift, the Academy will donate the gift to charity but prior approval must be obtained from the Chair of Governors.

Signed by: _____
Chair of Governors

Date: _____