



**Transforming  
Futures**  
TRUST

## Gifts & Hospitality Policy

Policy Information	
Policy Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Issue Version	2
Approving Committee	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee
Adopted Date	February 2021
Review Cycle	Bi annual
Last Review Date	February 2025
Next Review Date	February 2027

### Adoption of the Policy

This Policy has been adopted and reviewed by the Trustees of Transforming Futures Trust

Signed:

Date: 25.02.25

Chair of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee



## Version Control Amendments

Version No	Date	Summary of Changes
2	February 2025	Policy reviewed.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Policy seeks to protect Trustees and staff from suspicion of dishonesty and ensure that they are free from any conflict of interest with respect to the acceptance or provision of gifts, hospitality, or any other inducement.
- 1.2. The Trust expects Trustees and staff to exercise the upmost discretion in giving and accepting gifts and hospitality when on Trust business. Particular care should be taken with regard to a person or organisation that has, or is hoping to have, a contract with the Trust.
- 1.3. Gifts, hospitality or benefits in kind from a third party must not be accepted where it might be perceived that their personal integrity is being compromised or that the Trust might be placed under an obligation.
- 1.4. Trustees and staff must not use their official position to further private interests or those of others.

## 2. Gifts and Rewards to and from Students/Parents/Carers

- 2.1. Care needs to be taken that gifts or hospitality is not accepted, that might be construed as a bribe by others, or lead the giver to expect preferential treatment.
- 2.2. There are occasions when pupils or parents wish to pass small tokens of appreciation e.g. at Christmas or as a thank-you and this is usually acceptable. However, it is unacceptable to receive gifts on a regular basis or of any significant value.
- 2.3. Similarly, personal gifts to pupils or their families should not be given. This could be interpreted as a gesture either to bribe or groom. It might also be perceived that a 'favour' of some kind is expected in return.
- 2.4. Any reward given to a pupil should be in accordance with agreed practice within the Academy setting, consistent with the Academy Behaviour policy, recorded and not based on favouritism.

## 3. Gifts and Rewards to and from external organisations or individuals

- 3.1. Transforming Futures Trust is committed to raising awareness to be honest and act in good faith by not accepting or commissioning an advantage of any kind from those who do business with the Trust.
- 3.2. Trustees and staff dealing with external organisations or individuals are encouraged to do so sympathetically, efficiently, promptly and without bias to avoid committing a criminal offence.

- 3.3. As part of the Trust commitment to openness and transparency, a Gifts & Hospitality Register is to be maintained and made available for public inspection. The Register is designed to protect both the Trust from damaging allegations of corruption and possible punitive actions. See Appendix 1
- 3.4. It will be a serious disciplinary offence for any individual to receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward, hospitality or other advantage in their capacity as an employee or Trustee, which might reasonably be seen to compromise their personal judgment and integrity.
- 3.5. If an allegation is made it is for the individual to demonstrate that any such rewards have not been corruptly obtained.

## 4. Definition and Scope

- 4.1. It is a serious criminal offence for any individual to corruptly receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage for doing, or not doing, anything or showing favour or disfavour, to any person in their official capacity.
- 4.2. Unlawful giving or accepting of gifts or hospitality that would amount to a criminal offence results from a motive to influence the other party or to create an obligation on the other party to reciprocate the favour.
- 4.3. A gift or form of hospitality may be considered inappropriate where the Trust or individual would be embarrassed should the proposed action become public knowledge.
- 4.4. Examples of inappropriate gifts, rewards, fees or loans include:
  - Cash or cash equivalents of any amount
  - Vouchers or subscriptions
  - Alcohol
  - Tobacco
- 4.5. Acceptable gifts, rewards, fees or loans include:
  - Items of a promotional nature
  - Modest consumables which can be shared in the office e.g biscuits
  - Modest articles which can be used in the office or job role e.g. calendars or diaries.
- 4.6. Examples of inappropriate hospitality, entertainment or preferential treatment include:
  - Hospitality or entertainment of a value of more than £25
  - Any form of hospitality or entertainment which raises a suspicion of granting undue preference in the conduct of the Trust's business to the provider e.g. an invitation to attend a function or event
  - Anything not based on the subsistence allowances for staff and Trustees which are in force at the time.

4.7. Acceptable forms of treatment, hospitality and entertainment include:

- Hospitality or entertainment valued above £25 which has been specifically authorised by the Trust Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and recorded in the Gifts & Hospitality Register
- Lunches and refreshments in the course of the Trust's business
- Invitations to attend charity or fund-raising events as a guest, if considered to be for a good cause and of reciprocal benefit to the Trust.

## 5. Giving and Accepting Gifts and Favours

- 5.1. Trustees and staff must never solicit gifts from another individual, school or organisation.
- 5.2. Gifts of a trivial nature or small gifts may be accepted where refusal might offend the person offering the gift. All other gifts as outlined above must be refused.
- 5.3. Where refusal would cause offence, an acceptable alternative is to suggest a donation to the association or to a charity nominated by the Trust.
- 5.4. Trivial or small gifts accepted and not of a personal nature should be pooled and distributed at the Trust Finance & Audit Committee discretion.
- 5.5. Where a Trustee or staff member receives an unsolicited gift of more than token, which it is impractical to refuse, they must immediately donate it to the Trust. The Executive will decide, depending on the nature of the gift, whether it is most appropriately used for Trust purposes or donated to a charity.
- 5.6. All gifts and what is done with them must be recorded in the Gifts & Hospitality Register even if it has been refused.
- 5.7. Gifts to another individual or school should be made only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Chair or Headteacher as appropriate.

## 6. Giving and Accepting Hospitality and Entertainment

- 6.1. Trustees and staff must never solicit hospitality from another individual, school or organisation.
- 6.2. Any hospitality given or received must be recorded in the Gifts & Hospitality Register even if it has been refused.

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- 6.3. The cost and the reason why acceptance is considered to be in the Trust interests should be noted in the Register where extravagant hospitality or entertainment above the token value, whether given or received.
- 6.4. Entertainment or substantial hospitality may be given from time to time as a courtesy to outside organisations with whom the Trust works; however, this should not be a common practice.
- 6.5. Expenditure entitled to staff will be limited to working lunches, refreshments to visitors and business contacts.

