



## OXLEY PARK ACADEMY

### Anti Bribery Policy

#### **Purpose**

Oxley Park Academy is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in its business activities in the UK and overseas. This policy outlines the Academy's position on preventing and prohibiting bribery, in accordance with the Bribery Act 2010. The Academy will not tolerate any form of bribery by, or of, its employees, agents or consultants or any person or body acting on its behalf. The Governing Body and Senior management are committed to implementing effective measures to prevent, monitor and eliminate bribery.

#### **Scope of this policy**

This policy applies to all employees and officers of the School, and to temporary workers, consultants, contractors, agents and subsidiaries acting for, or on behalf of, the School ("associated persons") within the UK and overseas. Every employee and associated person acting for, or on behalf of, the School is responsible for maintaining the highest standards of business conduct. **Any breach of this policy is likely to constitute a serious disciplinary, contractual and criminal matter for the individual concerned and may cause serious damage to the reputation and standing of the School.**

The Bribery Act 2010 is in force from 1 July 2011. This policy covers:

- the main areas of liability under the Bribery Act 2010;
- the responsibilities of employees and associated persons acting for, or on behalf of, the School; and
- the consequences of any breaches of this policy.

#### **Bribery Act 2010**

The School is committed to complying with the Bribery Act 2010 in its business activities in the UK and overseas.

Under the Bribery Act 2010, a bribe is a financial or other type of advantage that is offered or requested with the:

- intention of inducing or rewarding improper performance of a function or activity; or
- knowledge or belief that accepting such a reward would constitute the improper performance of such a function or activity.

A relevant function or activity includes public, state or business activities or any activity performed in the course of a person's employment, or on behalf of another School or individual, where the person performing that activity is expected to perform it in good faith, impartially, or in accordance with a position of trust.

A criminal offence will be committed under the Bribery Act 2010 if:

- an employee or associated person acting for, or on behalf of, the School offers, promises, gives, requests, receives or agrees to receive bribes; or
- an employee or associated person acting for, or on behalf of, the School offers, promises or gives a bribe to a foreign public official with the intention of influencing that official in the performance of his/her duties (where local law does not permit or require such influence); and
- the Academy does not have the defence that it has adequate procedures in place to prevent bribery by its employees or associated persons.

All employees and associated persons are required to comply with this policy, in accordance with the Bribery Act 2010.

### **What is prohibited?**

Oxley Park Academy prohibits employees or associated persons from offering, promising, giving, soliciting or accepting any bribe. The bribe might be cash, a gift or other inducement to, or from, any person or organisation, whether a public or government official, official of a state-controlled industry, political party or a private person or company, regardless of whether the employee or associated person is situated in the UK or overseas. The bribe might be made to ensure that a person or the Academy improperly performs duties or functions (for example, by not acting impartially or in good faith or in accordance with their position of trust) to gain any commercial, contractual or regulatory advantage for the organisation in either obtaining or maintaining Academy business, or to gain any personal advantage, financial or otherwise, for the individual or anyone connected with the individual.

This prohibition also applies to indirect contributions, payments or gifts made in any manner as an inducement or reward for improper performance, for example through consultants, contractors or sub-contractors, agents or sub-agents, sponsors or sub-sponsors, joint-venture partners, advisors, customers, suppliers or other third parties.

### **Records**

Employees and, where applicable, associated persons, are required to take particular care to ensure that all School records are accurately maintained in relation to any contracts or business activities, including financial invoices and all payment transactions with clients, suppliers and public officials.

Due diligence must be undertaken by employees and associated persons prior to entering into any contract, arrangement or relationship with a potential supplier of services, agent,

consultant or representative. Employees and associated persons are required to keep accurate, detailed and up-to-date records of all corporate hospitality, entertainment or gifts accepted or offered. This should be recorded and reported as per **Gifts & Hospitality Policy**.

### **Working overseas**

#### *Principle*

Employees and associated persons conducting business on behalf of the Academy outside the UK may be at greater risk of being exposed to bribery or unethical business conduct than UK-based employees. Employees and associated persons owe a duty to the Academy to be extra vigilant when conducting international business.

#### *Procedure*

Employees and associated persons are required to report suspicions of bribery to the Principal, or Chair of Governors if Principal not available or is the person suspicious of bribery.

While any suspicious circumstances should be reported, employees and associated persons are required particularly to report:

- close family, personal or business ties that a prospective agent, representative or joint-venture partner may have with government or corporate officials, directors or employees;
- a history of corruption in the country in which the business is being undertaken;
- requests for cash payments;
- requests for unusual payment arrangements, for example via a third party;
- requests for reimbursements of unsubstantiated or unusual expenses; or
- a lack of standard invoices and proper financial practices.

If an employee or associated person is in any doubt as to whether or not a potential act constitutes bribery, the matter should be referred to the Principal.

### **Corporate entertainment, gifts, hospitality and promotional expenditure**

#### *Principle*

The School permits corporate entertainment, gifts, hospitality and promotional expenditure that is undertaken **as per Gifts & Hospitality Policy**:

- for the purpose of establishing or maintaining good business relationships;
- to improve the image and reputation of the Academy; or
- to present the Academy's services effectively;

provided that it is:

- arranged in good faith, and
- not offered, promised or accepted to secure an advantage for the Academy or any of its employees or associated persons or to influence the impartiality of the recipient.

The Academy will authorise only reasonable, appropriate and proportionate entertainment and promotional expenditure.

### *Procedure*

Employees and, where relevant, associated persons should submit requests for proposed hospitality and promotional expenditure well in advance of proposed dates to the Principal.

Employees are required to set out in writing:

- the objective of the proposed client entertainment or expenditure;
- the identity of those who will be attending;
- the organisation that they represent; and
- details and rationale of the proposed activity.

The Academy will approve business entertainment proposals only if they demonstrate a clear business objective and are appropriate for the nature of the business relationship. The School will not approve business entertainment where it considers that a conflict of interest may arise or where it could be perceived that undue influence or a particular business benefit was being sought (for example, prior to a tendering exercise).

Any gifts, rewards or entertainment received or offered from clients, public officials, suppliers or other business contacts should be reported immediately to the Senior Finance Officer. In certain circumstances, it may not be appropriate to retain such gifts or be provided with the entertainment and employees and associated persons may be asked to return the gifts to the sender or refuse the entertainment, for example, where there could be a real or perceived conflict of interest. As a general rule, small tokens of appreciation, such as flowers or a bottle of wine, may be retained by employees as per Gifts & Hospitality Policy.

If an employee or associated person wishes to provide gifts to suppliers, clients or other business contacts, prior written approval from the Principal is required, together with details of the intended recipients, reasons for the gift and business objective.

Employees and, where applicable, associated persons must supply records and receipts, in accordance with the School's expenses policy.

### *Charitable and political donations*

The Academy considers that charitable giving can form part of its wider commitment and responsibility to the community. The Academy supports a number of charities that are selected in accordance with objective criteria. The Academy may also on occasion support fundraising events involving employees.

*What practices are permitted?*

This policy does not prohibit:

- normal and appropriate hospitality and entertainment with and
- the use of any recognised fast-track process that is publicly available on payment of a fee.

Any such practices must be proportionate, reasonable and made in good faith. Clear records must be kept.

### **Reporting suspected bribery**

#### *Principle*

The School depends on its employees and associated persons to ensure that the highest standards of ethical conduct are maintained in all its business dealings. Employees and associated persons are requested to assist the School and to remain vigilant in preventing, detecting and reporting bribery.

Employees and associated persons are encouraged to report any concerns that they may have to the Principal or Chair of Governors as appropriate as soon as possible. Issues that should be reported include:

- any suspected or actual attempts at bribery;
- concerns that other employees or associated persons may be being bribed; or
- concerns that other employees or associated persons may be bribing third parties, such as clients or government officials.

#### *Procedure*

Employees should record any incidents of suspected bribery. Any such reports will be thoroughly and promptly investigated by the Principal/Chair of Governors in the strictest confidence. Employees and associated persons will be required to assist in any investigation into possible or suspected bribery.

Employees will also be required to comply with the Academy's **Whistleblowing policy**.

Employees or associated persons who report instances of bribery in good faith will be supported by the Academy. The Academy will ensure that the individual is not subjected to detrimental treatment as a consequence of his/her report. Any instances of detrimental treatment by a fellow employee because an employee has made a report will be treated as a disciplinary offence. An instruction to cover up wrongdoing is itself a disciplinary offence. If told not to raise or pursue any concern, even by a person in authority such as a manager, employees and associated persons should not agree to remain silent. They should report the matter to an appropriate member of senior management.

### **Action by the Academy**

The Academy will fully investigate any instances of alleged or suspected bribery. Employees suspected of bribery may be suspended from their duties while the investigation is being carried out. The Academy will invoke its disciplinary procedures where any employee is suspected of bribery, and proven allegations may result in a finding of gross misconduct and immediate dismissal. The Academy may terminate the contracts of any associated persons, including consultants or other workers who act for, or on behalf of, the Academy who are found to have breached this policy.

The Academy may also report any matter to the relevant authorities, including the Director of Public Prosecutions, Serious Fraud Office, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and the police. The Academy will provide all necessary assistance to the relevant authorities in any subsequent prosecution.

### **Review of procedures**

The Principal and Reporting Officer will monitor and review the implementation of this policy and related procedures on a regular basis, including reviews of internal financial systems, expenses, corporate hospitality, gifts and entertainment policies.

The Academy reserves the right to amend and update this policy as required. For the avoidance of doubt, this policy does not form part of employees' contracts of employment.

December 2011

Approved by Full Governing Body –January 2012

**Reviewed:** Spring 2016

**Next review:** Spring 2017