



St Mary's School
CAMBRIDGE

Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy

This policy is the responsibility of the Bursar.

Last review: February 2023

Next review: January 2024

Introduction

It is St Mary's, Cambridge ('the School') policy to conduct all our business in an honest and ethical manner. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate and implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter bribery. The School will comply with the Bribery Act 2010 (the Act), in respect of our conduct both at home and abroad.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) set out the School's responsibilities, and of those working for us, in observing and upholding our position on bribery and corruption; and
- b) provide information and guidance to those working for us on how to recognise and deal with bribery and corruption issues.

Bribery and corruption are punishable for individuals by up to ten years' imprisonment and if we are found to have taken part in corruption the School could face an unlimited fine, be excluded from tendering for public contracts and face damage to our reputation. We therefore take our legal responsibilities very seriously.

In this policy, third party means any individual or organisation you come into contact with during the course of your work for us, and includes actual and prospective pupils and parents, suppliers, business contacts, agents, advisers, and government and public bodies, including their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians and political parties.

Who is covered by the policy?

This policy applies to all individuals working for the School at all levels (whether permanent, fixed term or temporary), and includes staff, Governors, volunteers, agents, or any other person associated with us (collectively referred to as workers in this policy).

What are bribery and corruption?

A bribe is an inducement or reward offered, promised, or provided to gain any business or personal advantage. An 'advantage' includes money, gifts, loans, fees, hospitality, services, discounts, the award of a contract or anything else of value.

Corruption is the abuse of an entrusted power for private gain.

The following are examples of circumstances in which offences under the Act may occur:

- An IT Company providing services to the School offers you a free iPad as an incentive for renewing its contract for services.
- A Ski Company tendering for a contract with the School to facilitate a School trip offers to accommodate your children on the trip free of charge.
- To request or offer a reduction in school fees at another school in return for an expectation that the member of staff would induce other families to accept places at the other school.

Accepting any of the above offers may amount to an offence under the Act.

Gifts and Hospitality

This policy does not prohibit normal and appropriate hospitality (given and received) to or from third parties.

The giving or receipt of gifts or hospitality is not prohibited, if the following requirements are met:

- it is not made with the intention of influencing a third party to obtain or retain business or a business advantage, or to reward the provision or retention of business or a business advantage, or in explicit or implicit exchange for favours or benefits.
- it complies with local law.
- it is given in the School's name, not in your name.
- it does not include cash or a cash equivalent (such as gift certificates or vouchers).
- it is appropriate in the circumstances. For example, in the UK it is customary for small gifts to be given at Christmas time.
- considering the reason for the gift, it is of an appropriate type and value and given at an appropriate time.
- it is given openly, not secretly; and
- gifts should not be offered to, or accepted from, government officials or representatives without the prior approval of the Bursar or the Head.

From time-to-time parents or pupils may offer you gifts on an individual basis as a demonstration of their gratitude for the work you have done on their behalf, and this is perfectly legitimate. However, in some contexts such gifts could be construed as an improper inducement to, for instance, accord preferential treatment in the future. Consequently, it is necessary for the School to have rules applying to such gifts. These are as follows.

- Any gifts of cash or other monetary equivalent (e.g., vouchers) of whatever value, or any other gifts of a value of £50 or over, should be reported to the Bursar via email. The Bursar will use his discretion as to the appropriate treatment of the gift.
- If you receive a gift from a group of parents, then the maximum value that can be accepted will be based on an average of £25 per pupil.

- You may retain gifts received from suppliers if they are token work-related items e.g., pens, notepads, flash drives, desk calendars or diaries. Any other gifts should be politely refused or donated to the School or School's nominated charity. In either case the Bursar should be notified by email, and if the gift is being donated to charity, then the giver of the gift should be told that this is the case.
- Gifts that are worth more than £100, or which appear inappropriate for any reason, will be donated to the School or the School's nominated charity, or returned to the donor. In all relevant cases, the parent should be thanked for their gift and informed that it is being donated to the School or the School's nominated charity.

What is not acceptable

It is not acceptable for you (or someone on your behalf) to:

- give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality with the expectation or hope that an advantage for the School will be received, or to reward an advantage already received.
- give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift, or hospitality to a government official, agent or representative to "facilitate" or expedite a routine procedure.
- accept payment from a third party that you know, or suspect is offered with the expectation that it will obtain an advantage for them.
- accept a gift or hospitality from a third party if you know or suspect that it is offered or provided with an expectation that a business advantage will be provided by the School in return.
- threaten or retaliate against another worker who has refused to commit a bribery offence or who has raised concerns under this policy; or
- engage in any activity that might lead to a breach of this policy.

Donations

The School only makes charitable donations that are legal and ethical under local laws and practices. No donation must be offered or made in the School's name or on behalf of the School without the prior approval of the Bursar.

Your responsibilities

You must ensure that you read, understand, and comply with this policy.

The prevention, detection and reporting of bribery and other forms of corruption are the responsibility of all those working for us or under our control. All workers are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.

The School could be held liable for failing to prevent bribery if a person associated with it commits an offence under the Act. You must raise a concern as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a breach of this policy has occurred, or may occur in the future, or if you consider that you have been offered any inducement or reward with a view to obtaining a business or personal advantage.

Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct. We reserve our right to terminate our contractual relationship with other workers if they breach this policy.

Record-keeping

The School keeps financial records and has appropriate internal controls in place which will evidence the business reason for making payments to third parties.

All employees must make their line manager aware and keep a written record of all hospitality or gifts accepted or offered, which will be subject to managerial review.

You must ensure all expenses claims relating to hospitality, gifts or expenses incurred to third parties are submitted in accordance with the School's expenses policy and specifically record the reason for the expenditure.

All accounts, invoices, memoranda and other documents and records relating to dealings with third parties, such as clients, suppliers, and business contacts, should be prepared and maintained with strict accuracy and completeness. No accounts must be kept "off-book" to facilitate or conceal improper payments.

How to raise a concern

You are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of malpractice at the earliest possible stage. Concerns should be reported by following the procedure set out in our Whistleblowing Policy.

Protection

Workers who refuse to accept or offer a bribe, or those who raise concerns or report another's wrongdoing, are sometimes worried about possible repercussions. The School aims to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

The School is committed to ensuring no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of refusing to take part in bribery or corruption, or because of reporting in good faith their suspicion that an actual or potential bribery or other corruption offence has taken place or may take place in the future. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, threats, or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should use the School's Grievance Procedure.

Training and Communication

Training on this policy forms part of the induction process for all new workers.
