

The Blue Tangerine Federation

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

POLICIES, GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES



Anti-Bribery Policy

Date established: September 2015

Last Reviewed: August 2022

Staff Responsibility: Executive Head

Date for review: August 2024

Changes since last version:

Section	Details of change
6. Related Policies	Bullet point two added - Disciplinary

1. Introduction

The Bribery Act became law on 1 July 2011. It replaces what are collectively known as the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889 to 1916. It is designed to address bribery and corruption in the public and private sectors and will mean that any incorporated organisation, potentially including schools could be liable to severe penalties if they fail to implement adequate procedures to prevent bribes being paid or received on their behalf.

There are four key offences under the Act

- Section 1 Bribing another person
- Section 2 Taking a bribe
- Section 6 Bribing a foreign public official
- Section 7 Failing to prevent bribery.

The Bribery Act applies to all staff in the organisation. An organisation may be guilty of bribery even if only the individual offender knew of the bribery.

The Bribery Act introduces serious penalties such as unlimited fines for organisations and up to a maximum jail term of 10 years for the individuals involved.

Organisations will have a defence against prosecution if they can demonstrate that they had “adequate procedures in place to prevent bribery”.

Bribery is a serious criminal offence and the Federation does not and will not, pay bribes or offer improper inducement to anyone for any purpose. Equally the Blue Tangerine Federation does not and will not accept any bribes or improper inducements.

2. Definition of Bribery

Bribery is an inducement or reward offered, promised or provided to gain personal, commercial, regulatory or contractual advantage.

3. Objective of the Anti-Bribery Policy

The objective of the policy is to provide a coherent and consistent approach to ensuring compliance with the Bribery Act. It will enable all employees and any person who performs services for and on behalf of the Federation (this could include contractors and subcontractors) to understand their responsibilities and allow them to take the necessary action, for example reporting any potential breaches of the policy.

The Federation is committed to countering bribery and corruption in all forms and will not tolerate it in any of its activities.

The Federation requires that all staff and all working or performing any service on or on behalf of the Federation neither accept nor give bribes. Staff must:

- Act honestly with integrity at all times to safeguard the Schools resources within the Federation for which they are responsible
- Comply with the law (both in spirit and in the letter)
- Abide by this policy

4. Scope of the Policy

The policy applies to all of the Federation's activities including its work with strategic partners, third parties, suppliers, and others.

5. Ownership of the Policy

The policy applies equally to all staff, regardless of grade whether permanently employed, temporary agency staff, contractors, agents, all elected and non-elected Governors, volunteers and consultants.

The Executive Head and the Board of Governors will own the policy, thereby ensuring that there is commitment at the highest level.

It is unacceptable to:

- Give, promise to give, or offer payment, gifts or hospitality with the expectation or hope that a favourable advantage will be received, or to reward a favourable advantage already given;
- Give, promise to give, or offer payment, gifts or hospitality to a government official, agent or representative to "facilitate" or expedite a routine procedure;
- Accept payment from a third party that is offered with the expectation that it will obtain a favourable advantage for them, whether known or suspected;
- Accept a gift or hospitality from a third party if it is offered or provided with an expectation that a favourable advantage will be provided by the Federation in return, whether known or suspected;
- Retaliate against or threaten a person who has refused to commit a bribery offence or who has raised concerns under this policy;
- Engage in activity in breach of this policy.

6. Related Policies

The anti-bribery policy must be considered alongside the following policies which collectively set out the Federation's approach to reducing bribery risks:

- Code of Conduct for staff
- Disciplinary

7. Staff Responsibilities and all those working or performing any service on or behalf of the School:

Prevention, detection and reporting of bribery and other forms of corruption are the responsibility of all those working for the Schools within the Federation or under its control. All staff, including third parties working or performing any service on or behalf of one the Schools are to avoid activity that breaches this policy, and must:

- Ensure that they read, understand and comply with the policy
- Raise concerns as soon as possible if they suspect that this policy has been breached.

8. Adequate Procedures

The procedures need to be applied proportionately based on the level of risk of bribery to the Federation. Adequate procedures cover:

i. Risk Assessment

That the Federation assesses the nature and extent of its exposure to potential bribery from inside and outside. The Schools within the Federation should know who they are doing business with and whether this has risk implications.

ii. Top Level Commitment

That the Governing Body is committed to preventing bribery. That there is a clear statement that bribery is not acceptable. That the anti-bribery policy is clearly communicated to all staff and partners of the Federation.

iii. Due Diligence

That the Federation has policies in place and is aware of who it does business with. The Federation is confident that its business relationships are transparent and ethical.

iv. Clear, Practical and Accessible Policies and Procedures

That the Federation's policies and procedures to prevent bribery being committed on its behalf are clear, practical, accessible and enforceable.

v. Effective Implementation

The anti-bribery policy and procedures are embedded throughout the Schools within the Federation. This means that the anti-bribery statements are embedded in the recruitment, retention, and operational policies and in training programmes.

vi. Monitoring and Review

That the Federation monitors and reviews its policies and procedures on a regular basis to ensure that there is compliance.

Ultimately, whether procedures are adequate is for the courts to decide on a case by case basis.

9. Monitoring and Review of the Implementation of the Anti-Bribery Policy

In the first instance a team comprising of representatives from the board of Governors will meet to review the implementation of the policy and then will review compliance with the policy.

10. Reporting to the Police; Sanctions and Redress

Staff who breach this policy face the possibility of civil and criminal prosecution. They also face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct.

The Executive Head and Governors, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, and, if an employee is involved, the Head of Human Resources or Governors (where they are the employer), will decide whether any matter is referred to the police for further investigation and follow the reporting processes set out in the Federation's Employee Code of Conduct.

If you require guidance on the action to take in a particular circumstance, or any further information or advice concerning this policy, please email sias@hertfordshire.gov.uk.