

GOVERNORS' EXPENSES POLICY

DATE OF REVIEW: October 2024

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: Autumn 2026

TO BE REVIEWED BY: Resources Committee



Introduction:

The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 state '*School governors provide a voluntary service, and cannot be paid for their role as a governor. But they can receive out of pocket expenses. This may include reasonable expenses to cover travel costs or child care costs incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as governor. Where the board has a delegated budget, whether to pay allowances and what allowances might reasonably be paid are matters for the board to decide.*'

The aim of this policy is to ensure that a governor (or non-governor who is co-opted on to a governing board committee), is not out of pocket where the school has derived a benefit from such outlay. The policy also reaffirms the governing board's commitment to ensuring equality of participation for all governors. Governors cannot be paid attendance allowances or for any loss of earnings.

Allowances and expenses necessarily incurred for which a claim may be made comprise the following:

- **Child care or baby sitting expenses.**

Where a governor does not have a spouse, partner or other responsible adult to care for a child/ren during a period of absence, in which that governor attends meetings of the governing board, its committees or in otherwise representing the school or governing board; claims will be limited to reimbursing the actual cost paid to a registered child minder or the cost of a baby sitter.

- **Care arrangements for an elderly or dependent relative**

Costs may be refunded in similar circumstances to childcare. Claims will be limited to reimbursing the actual amount paid to a person providing the care that the governor would have provided during the period of their absence.

- **Governors with a special need**

Where the school or governing board does not provide facilities or equipment to enable a governor for example to communicate or otherwise take part in the activity in question, claims will be limited to reimbursing the cost of, for example, provision of a signer, audiotapes, braille documentation, or travelling and subsistence for a person providing support, as the case may be.

- **Governors whose first language is not English**

The translation of documents or provision of an interpreter may be met in circumstances similar to a governor with special needs.

- **Telephone charges, photocopying costs and stationery**

These may be reimbursed where the governor is unable to use the facilities of the school in the performance of any duty on behalf of the governing board. Governors must keep a written record or

obtain a receipt, (where possible), relating to expenditure so incurred. Claims will be limited to reimbursing the actual costs involved.

- **Travel and subsistence**

Mileage may be claimed where the distance between the governors' home and the venue which governors are required to attend on business related to the work of the governing board (e.g. meetings, training courses, visits to other providers, etc) exceeds 3 miles. Where necessary, the cost of parking to enable attendance of business away from the school site will be reimbursed up to the level of the actual charge paid, upon production of a valid receipt. The use of public transport (where available) is encouraged, and fares will be reimbursed on the basis of actual expenditure, up to the level of standard class rail travel. In cases where no public transport or personal vehicle is available, the cost of a taxi fare will be reimbursed up to the level of the actual fare paid, upon production of a valid receipt. Mileage allowance will be reimbursed at the casual user mileage rate. An allowance may be claimed for use of a pedal cycle at a rate to be agreed. Payments of expenses where these have been, or are already met by the LEA or other body are excluded from this policy.

Claiming

To reduce administration, unless substantial sums are involved, governors are asked to claim termly in arrears, prior to the end of the financial year in question.

Claims should be made to Mrs Rice, and authorised by the Headteacher or other member of the Senior Leadership Team (excluding Mrs Rice to ensure dual control).

The governing board will review the policy annually.