

The Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools
Governors Allowances Policy

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Statement of intent	2
2. Legal framework	2
3. School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)	2
4. Governors allowances	3
5. Expenses eligible for reimbursement	3
6. Procedure for claiming expenses	4
7. Monitoring and review	5
Appendix A Governors' Allowance Claim Form	6

1. Statement of intent

At The Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary School, we are dedicated to good practice and ensuring equality through school processes.

The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) allow governing bodies of maintained schools, who have a delegated budget, to decide whether they wish to pay expenses to governors and associate members of the Governing Body, in order to reimburse any expenses they have incurred when serving as a governor.

This policy has been created with the aim of ensuring all governors, and non-governors who are members of the governing board, receive reimbursements for any expenses where the school has derived benefit from the individual serving their governing duty.

The federation believes that including payment for governors is important in ensuring equality for all governing members of our community and is, therefore, an appropriate use of our annual budget.

2. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation, including, but not limited to:

- The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

This policy also has due regard to the following guidance:

- DfE (2020) 'Governance handbook'

3. School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

Under these regulations, schools may decide to provide payments to governors in order to cover costs for expenses paid whilst fulfilling their roles.

There are, however, restrictions on the circumstances under which governors can receive payments from the school. Governors must not receive any reimbursement for loss of earnings due to attendance at meetings or a payment allowance for attendance.

The circumstances in which governors will receive payments must be agreed by the governing board in advance, and be authorised by submitting a claim form.

Any payments to governors must only be authorised if the Governing Body has deemed the circumstances beneficial to the school.

Any travel expenses must be returned at a rate not exceeding the HM Revenue and Customs approved mileage rates.

Other approved expenses will only be granted upon provision of a receipt, and for only the amount shown on the receipt.

4. Governors allowances

Under The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended), schools may decide to reimburse governors in order to cover costs for evidenced expenses paid whilst fulfilling their roles. There are, however, restrictions on the circumstances under which governors can claim from the school. Governors must not claim for any reimbursement for loss of earnings due to attendance at meetings, or a payment allowance for attendance.

The circumstances in which governors may make a claim will be agreed by the Chair of Governors in advance. Reimbursements will be authorised by the Executive Headteacher or Chair of Governors following submission of a claim form evidenced with receipts. Any payments to governors will only be authorised if the chair of governors has deemed the circumstances to be beneficial to the school and relevant to their role on the board.

Any car travel expenses will be returned at a rate not exceeding the HMRC approved mileage rates. Other approved expenses will only be granted upon provision of a receipt, and for only the amount shown on the receipt.

5. Expenses eligible for reimbursement

Governors of The Federation of Golden Flatts and Lynnfield Primary Schools will be able to claim expenses in the following instances, on a case-by-case basis and with prior approval from the Chair of Governors:

Travel (no subsistence will be considered)

- Claims for expenses may be made for travel between the governor's household and the school, at the level of mileage rates published by HMRC (45 pence per mile for the first 10,000 miles, then 25 pence for each subsequent mile).
- The nature of the visit must be specific to their role on the board, e.g. governors' meetings, training courses, etc.
- Payments will be reimbursed for use of public transport, upon production of a valid receipt.
- The costs of parking for pre-agreed governor business away from the school, where necessary, will be refunded only upon production of a valid, dated receipt.

Childcare

- In cases where a governor does not have a spouse or family member to care for a child when the governor must attend meetings relating to the work of the governing board, pre-agreed expenses will be returned for the cost of childcare or a babysitter, up to a maximum of £20. In order to make a claim individual governor will need to provide a receipt.
- Allowances will also be reimbursed for the cost of care for elderly or dependant relatives where the governor must be absent due to their governing duties.

Specific needs

- Governors may claim allowances for expenses relating to specific needs, incurred when carrying out approved duties.
- The circumstances in which governors can claim expenses for specific needs may include audio equipment or support from a signer, braille transcription, etc.

Telephone charges, photocopying, stationery, etc.

- Claims for reimbursements can be made where a governor is unable to use the school's facilities for any of the above.
- Allowances will be returned upon production of a dated, valid receipt, where appropriate. In all other cases, a full written report must be submitted. This list is not exhaustive, and the school may decide to reimburse in other instances; however, this must be agreed in advance by the Chair of Governors.

No claims will be considered for remote attendance at meetings or free online training.

6. Procedure for claiming expenses

Governors should claim expenses on a termly basis, unless the amount to be claimed is substantial and/or urgent. Claims will be made using an agreed claim form and submitted to the school support manager or SBM via the Lynnfield school office. The Chair of Governors will be asked to confirm they have agreed this.

Claims will not be reimbursed unless authorised by the Chair of Governors. All claims will be subject to independent audit. If claims appear to be frequent or excessive, the Chair of Governors may refuse requests.

Claims can be made using the form in Appendix A.

7. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and the Chair of the Governing Body.

Review Date: August 2021

Reviewed by: S. Sharpe

Approved by Governors:

Next Review Date: August 2022

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Appendix A

Governors' Allowance Claim Form

This claim form consists of two sections. Section two must only be completed when payment has been made to another party, e.g. child carer.

Section one

Name of governor:		Date:
Date of expenditure:	Details of expenditure:	Claim:
Total claim:		£

[To be completed once authorisation of the claim has been approved.]

I certify that the above expenses are actual and necessary, and confirm that cash/cheque has been received.

Signature of governor:		Date:
Signature of Exec Headteacher:		Date:
Reimbursed by (name):		Date:

Section two

Duty of service, e.g. childcare:	
Name:	
Amount received (£):	
Signature:	
Date:	