

Testwood School Governors' Expenses Policy



Key responsibility area : Chair of Governors
Last Review : June 2017
Next Review : June 2018

Principles

This policy statement has been developed in accordance with the Education (Governors' Allowances) Regulations 1999 which give Governing Bodies the discretion to pay allowances from the school budget to governors for certain expenses which they incur in carrying out their duties. Testwood School Governing Body believes that paying governors' expenses, in specific categories as set out below, is important in ensuring equality of opportunity to serve as governors for all members of the community and so is an appropriate use of school funds. The specific items allowable reflect this objective.

Detail of allowances claimable:

- All governors are entitled to claim the actual costs which they incur in attending meetings of the governing body, its committees or Hampshire Governor Services training sessions as follows:
- Childcare or babysitting expenses (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner).
- Cost of care arrangements for an elderly or dependant relative (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner).
- The costs of travel from their home or place of work (as appropriate) by the least expensive means possible. For this purpose, travel by private car will be allowable at 45p/mile (maximum of 20 miles in connection with any one meeting, except training sessions run by Hampshire Governor Services) to cover fuel costs only.
- Governors will also be able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with the prior approval of the Governing Body: The extra costs they incur in performing their duties either because they have special needs or because English is not their first language; travel and subsistence costs, payable at the current rates specified by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, associated with attending national meetings or training events, unless these costs can be claimed from the Local Authority or any other source.
- The costs of stationery, photocopying, postage and telephone calls are not allowable. Governors can use the school photocopier or governing body business; further assistance with office services can be sought from the administration office, subject to the other demands of staff time.
- Governors wishing to make claims under these arrangements should complete a claims form (downloadable from the governor section of the website), attaching receipts where possible, and return it to the school within two weeks of the date when the expenses were incurred, when they will be submitted for approval by the Chair of Governors/Chair of Finance. Claims will be subject to independent audit and may be investigated by the Chair of Governors if they appear excessive or inconsistent.
- A governor cannot approve their own expenses.

- Claims should be submitted by 20th of the month. Claims will be made at the end of the month by bank transfer.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed annually

Date Policy Agreed: June 2017

Date of review: June 2018

Signature of Chairman of Governors:

Date: