



# Bronte Academy Trust

## Governors' Allowance Policy

Reviewed By	Approved By	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Next Review Date
Working Party	JB	7 Jan 19		7 Jan 21
DH	SC	13 Sep 21		13 Sep 2023
DH	Trustees	13 March 24		13 March 26

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## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

At Bronte Academy Trust, we are dedicated to good practice and ensuring equality through Trust processes.

The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) allow governing boards of schools, who have a delegated budget, to decide whether they wish to reimburse governors, and associate members appointed by the governing board, for any expenses, e.g. travel and childcare costs, they have incurred when serving on the board.

This policy has been created with the aim of ensuring all governors receive reimbursements for any expenses where the Trust has benefitted from the individual attending in their duty.

The Trust believes that including reimbursed 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.

# 1 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy as due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to the following:

- The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- DfE (2020) 'Governance handbook'

# 2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The chair of governors and headteacher will be responsible for authorising reimbursements in line with the conditions outlined in this policy and with due regard for all relevant statutory guidance.

Governors will be responsible for:

- Only making claims for reimbursements in line with the conditions outlined in this policy
- Following the procedures outlined in this policy when making a reimbursement claim

# 3 GOVERNORS' ALLOWANCES

Under The School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended), schools may decide to reimburse governors, and associate members appointed by the governing board, 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, but must only be expenditure necessarily incurred to enable the person to perform any governance duty. Reimbursements will be authorised by the 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.

# 4 EXPENSES ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Governors 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, which will not exceed the annual level of mileage rates published by HMRC
- 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, detailed 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 the maximum of £20.00
- 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

The 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.

## **5 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 the attached claim form and submitted to the school office manager via the school office. The chair of governors will be asked to confirm they have agreed to 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

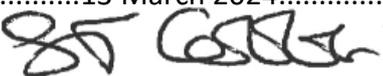
## 6 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis by the Trustees

### Declaration of Responsibility

This Governance Allowance Policy was reviewed and formally adopted by Bronte Academy Trust on

.....13 March 2024.....Date

.....Signed Chair of Trustees

.....Signed Chief Executive Officer

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**

<b>Name of governor/ Trustee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Date of expenditure:</b>	<b>Details of expenditure:</b>	<b>Claim:</b>
<b>Total claim:</b>		<b>£</b>

**[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.

<b>Signature of governor/ Trustee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Signature of headteacher/CEO:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Reimbursed by (name):</b>		<b>Date:</b>

**Section two**

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