

Board & Local Academy Boards' Allowable Expenses Policy

Issued: December 2018
Reviewed: November 2021
Next Review Due: Autumn 2024

- 1.0** This policy statement has been developed in accordance with the Education (Governors' allowances) Regulations 2003. These regulations give academy governing bodies the discretion to pay allowable expenses from the annual budget allocation to board, committees and local academy board members for certain expenses which they incur in carrying out their duties.
- 2.0** Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (BDMAT) believes that paying expenses, in specific categories as set out below, is important in ensuring equality of opportunity to serve as board, sub-committees or local academy board members for all members of the community and so is an appropriate use of funds. The specific items allowable reflect this objective.
- 3.0** Board, committee and local academy body members will be able to claim expenses, providing these are incurred in carrying out their duties as a board, committee or local academy board member and are agreed by the finance and resources committee or local academy board as appropriate. This should be justified before any reimbursable costs are incurred.
- 4.0** Board, committee and local academy board members will be able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with approval of the finance and audit committee or local governing body as appropriate:
- Childcare or babysitting expenses (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner), only with prior written approval;
 - Cost of care arrangements for an elderly or dependent relative (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner) only with prior written approval;
 - The extra costs they incur in performing their duties either because they have special needs or because English is not their first language;
 - The cost of travel relating only to travel to meetings/training courses at the following HMRC tax free rates. These rates are reviewed and updated regularly by HMRC and the table below indicates the rates effective at April 2018:

Vehicle	Up to 10,000 miles	Over 10,000 miles
Cars and vans	45p	25p
Motorcycles	24p	24p
Bicycle	20p	20p

- Travel and subsistence costs, payable for attending national meetings or training events, unless these costs can be claimed through other sources;
- Telephone charges, photocopying, stationery, postage etc;
- Any other justifiable expenses.

5.0 The BDMAT Board and Local Academy Board acknowledge that:

- Board, committee and local academy board members may not be paid an attendance allowance; and
- Board, committee and local academy board members may not be reimbursed for loss of earnings.

5.1 Those members wishing to make claims under these arrangements, once approval has been sought, should complete a claims form (obtainable from the BDMAT Finance team or School Office Manager), attaching receipts where possible, and return it to finance@bdmat.org.uk within four weeks of the date when the expenses were incurred. Expenses will be submitted for approval by the Chair of Directors (for Directors and Chairs of Local Academy Boards) or the Chair of the local academy board (for local academy board members).

5.2 Claims will be subject to independent audit by Internal Audit and may be investigated if they appear excessive or inconsistent.

5.3 BOARD, COMMITTEE/LOCAL ACADEMY BOARD MEMBER CLAIM FORM

Name:

Name of School:

Date:

Claim Period:

	£
Child care/Babysitting expenses	
Care arrangements for an elderly or dependent relative	
Support for governors/local governing body members with special needs	
Support for governors/local governing body members whose first language is not English	
Travel to meetings/training courses	
Travel/subsistence to national meetings or training events	
Telephone Charges	
Postage	
Photocopying	
Stationery	
Other (please specify)	
TOTAL EXPENSES CLAIMED	

I claim the total sum of £..... for board/committee/local academy board* expenses as detailed above. I have attached relevant receipts to support my claim.

*please delete as appropriate

Signed.....

Approved by.....



BDMAT
Birmingham Diocesan
Multi-Academy Trust

Name.....

Date.....

