



Trustee and Governor Expenses Policy

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| Policy Type: | Trust Core Policy |
| Date Issued by MAT: | 02/10/2024 |
| Approved By: | Trust Board (Finance, Audit and Resources Committee) |
| Approval Date: | 30/09/2024 |
| Review Date: | September 2027 |
| Person Responsible: | Head of Governance |

Our Christian Ethos and Values

Our academies are open to all and accepting of all regardless of faith. Our passion and ambition are to see children and young people in all our academies achieve excellent educational outcomes alongside developing and growing into their potential as individuals made in the image of God.

Our culture is one of high aspiration for all. This is rooted in our Christian values as demonstrated in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We have a desire to see our academies acknowledged as places of aspiration, high quality learning, achievement and hope making a significant contribution to the communities they serve.

All policies within St Benet's Multi Academy Trust (hereafter referred to as "the Trust"), whether relating to an individual academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our Christian ethos and values.

Overall accountabilities and roles

The Trust has overall accountability for all its academies and staff. Through a Scheme of Delegation, it sets out the responsibilities of the Trust, its Executive Officers, the Local Governance Committee and the Principal / Head Teacher. The Principal / Head Teacher of each academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Trust.

All employees of the Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

Statement of intent

The Trust is dedicated to good practice and ensuring equality through processes.

The Trust believes that no Trustee or Governor should be out-of-pocket in respect to carrying out their duties on behalf of the Trust and, therefore, that the payments of expenses for Trustees and Governors are important in ensuring equality for all members of the Trust community.

The Trust encourages all Trustees and Governors to submit claims for reasonable expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties.

1. Legal framework

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

- The Academy Master Funding Agreement
- The Charities Act 2011
- The Trustee Act 2000

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

- The Charity Commission (2023) 'Trustee expenses and payments'

2. Overview

For the purpose of this policy, "expenses" are refunds paid to Trustees and Governors to cover the costs incurred whilst fulfilling their governance duties for the Trust.

Allowances of properly incurred expenses are not a payment to Trustees and Governors for their services, nor do they count towards any kind of personal benefit.

Expenses

- Payments can only be paid for expenditure necessarily incurred to enable the person to perform any governance duty.
- Expenses will be paid on provision of a receipt, at the rate set out in the scheme, and will be limited to the amount shown on the receipt.

- Trustees and Governors of the Trust are permitted to claim expenses in the following instances, on a case-by-case basis and with prior approval from the board of trustees/local governing body:

Travel:

- Claims may be made for travel between the Trustee or Governor's household and an academy or the Trust's central administration office in their personal car.
- The nature of the travel must be related to their voluntary role including meetings and training.
- Payments will be reimbursed for use of public transport or taxis, upon production of a valid receipt.
- The costs of parking for business away from the Trust, where necessary, will be returned upon production of a valid receipt.

Hospitality:

Trustees and Governors will be able to claim for the overnight accommodation or subsistence only in exceptional circumstances and subject to the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer.

Childcare:

Trustees and Governors will be able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer:

- Childcare or baby-sitting allowances (excluding payments to a current or former spouse or partner)
- Cost of care arrangements for an elderly or dependant relative (excluding payments to a current or former spouse or partner)

Specific needs:

Trustees and Governors will be able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer:

- Trustees and Governors may claim allowances for expenses relating to specific needs incurred when carrying out approved duties.
- The circumstances in which Trustees and Governors can claim expenses for specific needs may include: taxi fares, audio equipment or support from a signer, braille transcription, special transport for individuals with disabilities, etc.

Telephone charges, broadband, photocopying, postage, stationery, etc.:

- Trustees and Governors should be mindful of the Trust's aim to conduct its business in a paperless manner as far as possible when considering the decision to print.
- Claims for reimbursements can be made where a Trustee or Governor is unable to use an academy's or the Trust's central administration office facilities for any of the above.
- Allowances will be returned upon production of a valid receipt, where appropriate.

3. Payments which do not count as expenses

Trustees and Governors are not able to receive allowances for the following:

- Payments for hotel accommodation or travel costs for spouses or partners who are not participating in the business of the Trust.
- Payments for private telephone bills for business unrelated to the Trust.
- Payments for private medical insurance.
- Petrol mileage rates above the mileage rates published by HMRC (45 pence per mile).
- Parking fines.

NB. This list is not exhaustive, and the Trust may decide to reject other requests for expenses which are excessive, false or unreasonable.

Any Trustee or Governor that attempts to claim expenses which are excessive or false, as outlined above, may be liable to removal and, if the expense has already been reimbursed, may be liable to repay the Trust for the amount paid.

The Trust acknowledges that:

- Trustees and Governors may not be paid an attendance allowance.
- Trustees and Governors may not be reimbursed for loss of earnings.

4. How are expenses claimed?

- Trustees and Governors should claim expenses on a monthly basis, unless the amount to be claimed is substantial and/or urgent.
- Claims should be made by submitting an invoice to the Head of Governance.
- The Head of Governance will authorise the invoice and pass to the Finance team for payment.
- Payment terms are the later of 30 days from the date the invoice is received or 30 days from the invoice date
- The invoice template to be used by the Trustee or Governor can be found in Appendix 1.
- The invoice template can be downloaded from GovernorHub.
- To comply with audit requirements, invoices **must be typed**, not handwritten.
- All claims will be subject to independent audit. If claims appear to be too frequent or excessive, the Chief Financial Officer may ask for further details.
- The Board of Trustees will account for all expenses in the Trust's accounts; this includes:
 - Details of the payments and other benefits to Trustees and Governors and connected persons.
 - Details of the legal authority upon which the payment has been made and the reasoning for it.

5. Monitoring and review

The Head of Governance will review this policy every three years, or sooner if necessary.

INVOICE

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| Trust: | DNEAT / ST BENET'S / DONESC (delete as applicable) |
| Trust Board/Academy or Federation: | |
| From: (name and address) | |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Date: | |
| Invoice No: | |
| To: | Head of Governance governance@donesc.org |

| DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT |
|-------------|--------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| TOTAL | £0.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Please make payment to: (account name) | |
| Sort Code: | |
| Account Number | |
| Authorised by: | Head of Governance |
| Signed: | |
| Date: | |

[Please email or to the Head of Governance as per above](#)

Payment will be made 30 days from the date the invoice is received or 30 days from the invoice date, whichever is the later