



## **Governance Allowance Policy**

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# Governance Allowance Policy

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# Governance Allowance Policy

## 1. AIMS

Veritas Multi Academy Trust believes that paying governors allowances, in specific categories as set out below, is important in ensuring equality of opportunity to serve as governors for all members of the community. The specific items allowable reflect this objective.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

This policy applies to both Governors on the Local Academy Committees, Trustees on the Trust Board and Members of Veritas Multi Academy Trust.

Any reference to 'Governors' in this policy relates to governors on the Local Academy Committee (LAC), Trustees on the Trust Board and Members of the Trust Board.

## 3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**All Governors will be entitled to claim the actual costs, which they incur as follows:**

1. Governors will be able to claim allowances provided the expenses are incurred in carrying out their duties as a governor or representative of the LAC or Board of Trustees, and are agreed by the CEO that they are justified before any reimbursable costs are incurred.
2. Governors will be able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with the prior approval of the Board of Trustees:
  - Childcare or babysitting allowances (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner)
  - Cost of care arrangements for an elderly or dependent relative (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner)
  - 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 will not exceed the HMRC rate of 45 pence per mile. This rate does not also exceed the specified rates for school personnel.
  - Travel and subsistence costs associated with attending national meetings or training events, unless these costs can be claimed from any other source, will be payable at the current rates specified by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions.
  - Telephone charges, photocopying, stationery, postage etc
  - Any other justifiable allowances deemed reasonable by the Board of Trustees.

Veritas MAT Board of Trustees acknowledges that:

- Governors are not paid attendance allowance
- Governors are not reimbursed for loss of earnings.

Governors wishing to make claims under these arrangements, once prior approval has been sought, should complete a claim form (obtainable from the Clerk to Board of Trustees), attaching receipts where possible, and return it to the Clerk within two weeks of the date when the expenses were incurred. Once received, they will be submitted to the Business Committee for final approval. The Business Group can approve claims up to £500. Claims above this limit will be referred to the Board of Trustees.

Claims will be subject to independent audit and may be investigated by the Business Committee if they appear excessive or inconsistent. Claims will also form part of the annual financial audit.

This policy will be reviewed biennially.

**VERITAS MAT online claims form:**

- [Governance online travel and expenses claim form](#)

*This form will be allocated for approval to the CEO and progressed for payment by VMAT Finance via [finance@veritasm.co.uk](mailto:finance@veritasm.co.uk)*