

Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School

Governors' Allowances Policy

This policy statement has been developed in accordance with the Education (Governors' Allowances) Regulations 2003. These regulations give Governing Bodies the discretion to pay allowances from the school's annual budget allocation to governors for certain allowances which they incur in carrying out their duties. Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop VC Primary School Governing Body 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 and so is an appropriate use of school funds. The specific items allowable reflect this objective.

All governors of Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School are entitled to claim the actual costs, which they incur as follows:

1. Governors are able to claim allowances providing that they are incurred in carrying out their duties, as a Governor or representative of Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School, and are agreed by the Steering Committee that they are justified before any reimbursable costs are incurred.
2. Governors are able to claim for the following, on a case-by-case basis and with the prior approval of the Governing Body:
 - Childcare or babysitting allowances to attend a governor meeting or training course (excluding payments to a current/former spouse or partner);
 - Cost of care arrangements for an elderly or dependent relative to attend a governor meeting or training course (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 to attend a governor's training course relating only to travel to meetings/training courses at the current LA agreed rate which does not exceed the specified rates for school personnel;
 - 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 LA or any other source;
 - Telephone charges, photocopying, stationery, postage etc;
 - Any other justifiable allowances.

The Governing Body at Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School acknowledges that:

- Governors may not be paid attendance allowance;
- Governors may not be reimbursed for loss of earnings.
- That Governors are not expected to claim without prior consent.

Governors wishing to make claims under these arrangements, once prior approval has been sought, should complete a claims form (obtainable from the School Office), attaching receipts where possible, and return it to the School within two weeks of the date when the allowances were incurred, when they will be submitted for approval by the Chair of Governors or Chair of Finance to be presented to the Finance Committee (which meets at least once per term) for final approval.

Claims will be subject to independent audit and may be investigated by the Chair of Governors (or Chair of Finance in respect of the Chair of Governors) if they appear excessive or inconsistent.

This policy will be reviewed annually.