



REACH SOUTH ACADEMY TRUST EXPENSES POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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Policy owner	Michelle Wilkins, Director of Finance
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1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

The principle of the Expenses Policy is to ensure that employees continue to be reimbursed for all necessary expenditure reasonably incurred in the performance of their Reach South duties. The basis of expense claims will be actual expenditure up to limits as specified in this policy; limits will be reviewed annually.

Managers and staff should note that authorising managers have no authority to vary this policy; claims for items not allowed under the policy will be rejected. Staff should note that if they pay for expenses incurred by another individual, any deductions from their claim for non-compliance with policy would be their responsibility.

Timeliness of submission

Expenses should be submitted as soon as possible after they have been incurred. However, it costs a certain amount to process any claim, so claimants should endeavour not to submit claims for less than £50, unless they represent the total of expenses in a three-month period.

Submission of Expenses

Expenses should be submitted to invoices@reachsouth.org by the third (3rd) working day of the month. (You will receive an email reminder each month.) You should copy your line manager in on your complete expenses form and submit this via email. Your line manager will review your expense claim form and approve this via email based on the nature of items being claimed. Finance will then receive and process said claim, any queries with the expenses form will be emailed back to the employee with details of the query.

Please ensure that when submitting your claim, you scan and include ALL receipts relating to the claim. Any additional paperwork that you have to support your claim should also be included. Once processed a BACS payment will be made into the claimants' bank account.

Receipts

Receipts must accompany all claims; these should be in the form of Scanned copies where possible. Credit card slips or statements will not be accepted as evidence of business expenditure. A VAT receipt must include the name and address of the retailer, the retailer's VAT registration number, the date of the purchase, details of what goods or services have been purchased and the VAT inclusive value of those goods or services in sterling. (*Discretions may be made where payments have been made to parking companies or use of debit cards for tube fares and a receipt has not been obtainable*)

Authorisation of expenses

All expense claims must be pre-approved before expense is incurred and payment must be authorised by a more senior manager who is familiar with your work schedule and did not attend any event being claimed for. Authorising managers must ensure they are happy with the claim, or reject it for correction or further information.

2. TRAVEL

Alternatives to travelling and mode of travel

Wherever practicable, **audio conference facilities** and **video conference facilities** should be considered as an alternative to travelling. For travel within mainland UK and to/from Eurostar destinations rail is the default mode of travel over air.

Rail travel

First class rail travel is only permitted where the authorising line manager considers that the need for a working environment, use of portable computer equipment for example, is justified given the length of journey, nature of journey and cost of journey. The only exceptions are where it can be demonstrated that it is the cheapest ticketing option of all available tickets.

Significant savings can be obtained by specifying outward and/or return journeys at time of booking. Therefore, advance tickets should be purchased wherever possible and especially when there is an overnight stay required.

Rail travel will be standard class or the most effective way to travel. Most travel can be pre-booked, which will be significantly less than purchasing a ticket on the day of travel, which should always be the preferred method of booking.

Air Travel

Reach South travellers should use the lowest cost means of travel and fare. Travel should be booked via the relevant administration officer. Significant savings can be obtained by specifying outward and/or return journeys at time of booking. Some airlines will also allow changes to fixed tickets for an additional charge and this may be cheaper than buying a flexible ticket. Fully flexible tickets should only be requested when absolutely necessary.

Personal travel linked to Reach South business

Personal travel as part of a business trip is discouraged, and in any event only allowed where such travel actually reduces the cost of business travel to Reach South e.g. staying a Saturday night to take advantage of a lower cost fare. Where additional costs are incurred, e.g. Saturday night in a hotel, the individual employee must meet these. Adequate private travel insurance must be held. Weekend accommodation will be paid where the traveller is unable to return home as part of a longer business trip.

Travel with a spouse or partner

If a spouse or partner who is not involved in Reach South business accompanies a member of staff, the traveller must bear the cost of their spouse/partner. It is not permitted to downgrade the travel or accommodation booked in order to fund travel costs for a companion.

Frequent traveller schemes and personal incentives

Membership of a frequent traveller scheme must now deflect from using the most cost-effective option presented. Reach South will not reimburse frequent traveller membership fees.

3. TRANSPORT

Buses and public transport

When travelling, public transport should normally be used.

Minicabs and black taxis

Minicabs or taxis can be taken for business purposes if it is the most cost effective means of transport. A final destination must be specified for all bookings. Travel by minicab or taxi is not ordinarily appropriate for journeys over 40 miles. If there is a genuine business reason for this mode of travel and it has been pre-approved by a line-manager, payment can be reclaimed through the standard expenses procedure. Black taxis are more expensive than minicabs and they should only be booked as a last resort. Where taxis are hailed the cost can be recovered through an expenses claim.

Journeys between home and normal place of work

You are expected to meet the full cost of all journeys between your home and your normal place of work.

Journeys between home and temporary place of work

If you can demonstrate that your journey from home to a temporary base (or vice versa) incurs excess travel costs, the excess costs will be reimbursed. Full details of the excess costs must be provided on your expense claim.

4. DRIVING (INCLUDING MILEAGE RATES AND HIRE CARS)

Drivers Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all Reach South employees to ensure that they have a current driving licence which is valid for use in the UK, and can provide upon request to their line manager - or an appropriate department - original documents relating the car:

- A valid MOT certificate (where applicable)
- A Vehicle Registration Document (or V5)
- Adequate insurance cover for business use if using their own personal vehicle
- Lease car service history
- They advise their line manager and an appropriate department immediately of any driving penalty points obtained during the course of employment and provide a verified copy of any endorsements for retention on their personal file.

In the event that an employee loses their licence and if it is a requirement of their role to drive, then disciplinary action may be taken in line with the Disciplinary Procedure, which may result in the termination of employment.

On appointment, where an employee is expected to undertake business miles, they shall provide original copies of their driving licence, insurance documentation, MOT certificate (where applicable) to their line manager, who will verify the originals, copy, and confirm that the originals have been seen and verified for the personal file. In order to ensure compliance employees will be required to provide suitable documentation to their line manager in advance of submitting a request for reimbursement of expenses

Reach South accepts no liability for loss of, or damage to, vehicles being used on Reach South business. Tax relief may be available when using your own vehicle for work; please view the HM Revenue & Customs guide on using your own vehicle for work.

Mileage

When driving on Reach South business, provided it is further from your home to your temporary destination than it is from your home to your normal place of work, you can claim the lower of the distance:

- a) From your home to your temporary destination; or
- b) From your normal place of work to the temporary destination.

Mileage rates

Mileage should be claimed at the HMRC Travel – Mileage and Fuel Allowance Approved rates, (correct as at February 2018)

The 2019 rates are:

From 2011 onwards	Car & Vans	Motorcycle	Bike
Up to 10,000 miles	45p	24p	20p
Over 10,000 miles	25p	24p	20p
Passenger Payments – Claimed per passenger per business mile for Car & Vans only	5p	0p	0p

You should complete the expenses form keeping a running total of the business mileage claimed in the nominated field.

Public Transport Rate of 25p per mile, unless either public transport is not available to that location or there is a valid business reason for taking a car, such as it saves time or a number of people are travelling together.

Hiring a Vehicle

Vehicles should only be rented for business purposes where it is cost effective and when public transportation and minicabs are impractical, more expensive or not available. The class of vehicle booked should be the minimum size and specification necessary to allow duties to be performed.

Fuel

The cost of fuel used on business can be reimbursed by submitting an appropriate receipt and/or expense claim form. Any hire vehicles should be returned with a full tank, as hire companies charge inflated rates for refuelling.

Parking

Reasonable car parking costs while on business will be met so long as a valid receipt is provided.

Tolls and Congestion Charges

Necessary road and bridge toll costs will be met, including the congestion charge where there is a genuine business need to incur it. No tolls or congestion charges can be claimed for travel between home and work.

Fines

The individual must pay any fines, including parking tickets, incurred whilst using a hired vehicle for any motoring offences, promptly. Failure to do so will result in the cost of the fine and administration

fee being recovered directly from the driver. Reach South will not meet the cost of fines incurred by individual for motoring or parking offenses while on Reach South business.

5. OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Rates

If you have to stay away from base overnight, Reach South will pay for the cost of a standard single room with bathroom facilities.

The cost of the room should not normally exceed the following limits. These limits will be the maximum claimable, with receipts, unless there has been prior approval of your line manager after special consideration of the circumstances:

Overnight stay outside of London (and other similar destinations)

	Cost per night (ex VAT)	Cost per night (Inc VAT)
Room Only	£75	£90
Bed and Breakfast	£85	£102

Overnight stay in London (and other similar high cost destinations)

	Cost per night (ex VAT)	Cost per night (Inc VAT)
Room Only	£150	£180
Bed and Breakfast	£166	£200

Private Accommodation

In circumstances where it is economical for Reach South, a line manager may authorise in advance, where you are more than 40 miles from home, for staff to stay in private accommodation, with family or friends. An allowance of £20, including breakfast may be claimed for this.

6. MEALS

Meals whilst away overnight

When necessarily away from base overnight, Reach South will reimburse the actual cost of relevant meals on presentation of receipts, up to the limits (including VAT and service) below. These limits take account of the fact that staff would normally incur a domestic cost for meals in any case:

Meal	Limit (incl. VAT & Service)
Breakfast	£6 (£10 London)
Lunch	£6 (£10 London)
Dinner	£16 (£25 London)

If certain meals have been provided for you, (i.e. breakfast included in the accommodation charge or location catering provided for lunch) only the other meals may be claimed.

Group Meals

If one member of a team pays a bill on behalf of other members of staff, details of the reason, location, names and number of staff must be shown on the expenses claim. Claiming shares of joint expenses is not permitted under any circumstances. Claims cannot exceed the number of staff multiplied by the relevant per head cost for the type of meal.

Alcohol will not be authorised for reimbursement unless specifically agreed by the Chief Executive in advance.

Business entertaining

Staff will be reimbursed reasonable entertaining costs for themselves (e.g. client, sponsor or partner on a collaborative project) where there is a valid business purpose.

Guideline levels

Lunch	£30.00	Per person including drinks and gratuities
Dinner	£45.00	Per person including drinks and gratuities

7. BUSINESS PHONE CALLS & WIFI

When you use your own home or mobile phone on Reach South business, the cost of itemised business calls will be met on production of an itemised bill. Reach South, irrespective of whether these include a certain amount of free call time, will pay no rental charges. HM Revenue & Customs will only allow Reach South to reimburse the business call costs.

Reach South will not meet the cost of phone cards for pay as you go mobiles.

Reach South will meet the cost of business calls from a call box or hotel room, provided details of the call, including the length and to whom, are included on the expense claim.

Reach South will meet the reasonable cost of using on-board or hotel Wifi if this is a work requirement whilst travelling or undertaking an overnight stay,

Working Base

All employees will have a designated work base. This will be your normal place of work. If you are required to travel as a normal part of your work your designated work base may be your home or Reach South premises close to your home. Your designated work place will be confirmed to you in writing.

When traveling on business for Reach South by car, directly from or to your home, you must deduct the home to work base mileage from your mileage claim. This is a requirement of HMRC.

When traveling on business for Reach South by public transport, directly from or to your home, you must deduct the home to work public transport rate published by HMRC, from the cost of your travel claim. The public transport rate published by HMRC is currently 25p per mile.

Home to work base mileage, in the event of a dispute, will be based on Google Maps.

Example 1

Employee lives 25 miles from their normal place of work. They travel directly from home to a Reach South sponsored academy to provide curriculum support. They return the same evening directly to home. The sponsored academy is 55 miles from their home and 40 miles from their normal work place.

In their expenses claim they claim 2x55 miles for the round trip to the sponsored academy, minus 2x25 miles for their normal home to work mileage. They claim therefore $(2 \times 55) - (2 \times 25) = 60$ miles.

Had the employee simply travelled from their work base to the sponsored academy they would have claimed $2 \times 40 = 80$ miles? As they are driving rather than using public transport they must also check that their actual mileage minus home to work mileage is less miles than travelling directly from their place of work, as they must only claim the lower mileage.

For their first 10,000 business miles claimed during the current tax year, they can claim those miles at 45p per mile. After 10,000 miles have been claimed in the current tax year, the miles are claimed at 25p per mile.

Example 2

Employee lives 25 miles from their normal place of work. They travel to their work base before travelling on to a Reach South sponsored academy to provide curriculum support. They return the same evening directly to home. The sponsored academy is 55 miles from their home and 40 miles from their work base.

In their expenses claim for the outward journey they simply claim the work base to sponsored academy mileage = 40 miles. On the return journey they travelled directly to their home. For the return leg they need to claim the sponsored academy to home mileage minus the home to work base mileage 55-25=30 miles. Their total mileage claim will therefore be 40+30=70 miles.

Example 3

Employee lives 25 miles from their normal place of work. They travel directly from home to a Reach South sponsored academy to provide curriculum support, by public transport. They return the same evening directly to home. The return public transport fare was £22.

In their expenses claim they can claim the £22 public transport fare. However, because they have travelled directly from home, they must first deduct the value of the home to work travel. In this case the home to work cost is calculated on the basis of the current HMRC public transport rate of 25p per mile. The value of the home to work journey is 25px50 miles (return trip) = £12.50.

Their expenses claim will therefore be: Actual Fare – Value of Home to Work Journey

£22.00 - £12.50 = £9.50

Contractors

Entitlement to claim expenses, for contractors and subcontractors, will normally be set out in the contractual relationship. Where an entitlement exists but no specific levels have been set out in a formal contract, then the rates and principles set out in this policy for employees will also apply to contractors.

When invoicing for reimbursement of expenses, contractors must also include copies of receipts and timesheets to support the invoice.