

NOMINATING A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Appointing Foundation Governors

The school's Instrument of Government states how many foundation governors are required and how many will be appointed by the PCC and the Diocesan Education Board (DEB). Foundation governors appointed by the PCC need not be a PCC member. In practice the DEB often relies on the local church to suggest suitable people to be appointed by the Board. Foundation governors should

- be a committed member of a Trinitarian church (Churches in fellowship with Churches Together in England)
- be committed to academic excellence in a Christian context
- care about children achieving their God given potential
- represent the interests of the church on the governing body and the interests of the school to the church
- report regularly to PCC meetings and so keep the congregation informed of developments, encouraging them to support the school as part of the strategy for mission

The procedure for appointing foundation governors is as follows:

PCC appointments

Term of office coming to an end or a vacancy exists:

- Inform Eileen Bell at the diocesan education office (0191 2704141).
- Consider the experience and expertise of the existing governing body and identify any skills gaps (working with the headteacher and Chair of Governors).
- Draw up a list of potential foundation governors.
- Ask the person whose term of office is about to expire if s/he wishes her/his name to be added to the list.

- Potential governors should fill in the (attached) application form for consideration by the PCC.
- PCC selects new governor and sends the successful candidate's application form to Eileen Bell at Church House.

DEB appointments

Term of office coming to an end or a vacancy exists:

- Skills audit of the governing body takes place and any skills gaps identified in consultation with the headteacher, Chair of Governors and relevant clergy.
- Identification by clergy/parishes/DEB officers of potential governors.
- Details of potential governors and application forms are sent to the DEB for consideration.
- The Church Schools Committee of the DEB appoints a governor.
- The DEB writes to the governor (copies to Ex-officio, Headteacher and LA clerk).
- The term of office is four years.

Brian Hedley, the Assistant Director of Education, will be happy to speak to members of the PCC about any aspect of governor recruitment and training. You can contact him at Church House on 0191 2704135 or via e mail b.hedley@newcastle.anglican.org

Who is on a Church School Governing Body?

- ❖ **Ex-officio Foundation Governor**, usually the incumbent of the parish
- ❖ **Foundation Governors** are appointed by the Parochial Church Council or the Diocesan Board of Education

[In a Voluntary Aided school the Foundation governors are in the majority, some must be parents, preferably of children in the school.]
- ❖ **The Headteacher**
May choose whether or not to be a Governor
- ❖ **Staff Governors**
Elected by the staff in the school
- ❖ **Parent Governor**
Elected by the parents of pupils of the school
- ❖ **Local Authority Governor**
Appointed by the Local Authority
- ❖ **Community Governors** (Community and Voluntary Controlled schools)
Appointed by the governing body to represent community interests. Community governors can be people who live or work in the community served by the school, or people who do not work or live close to the school but who are committed to good governance and the success of the school.
- ❖ **Associate Members** (Discretionary category)
The definition of an associate member is wide and pupils and people representing providers of other services can be appointed by the governing body as associate members. They do not have voting rights on the full governing body.
- ❖ **Sponsor Governors** (Discretionary category)
The governing body may appoint up to two individuals who give substantial assistance to the school, financially or in kind.

Thinking about becoming a foundation governor?

Could you give some of your time and talents to become part of a team committed to securing quality education for children in a Christian context?

The Role and Responsibility of Foundation Governors in Church Schools

This information is intended to help people considering becoming a foundation governor to understand what is involved in terms of their role, responsibilities and powers.

The duties of a foundation governor are wide-ranging and are the same as those of other governors. However, in addition, foundation governors are the 'formal Christian presence' on the Governing Body and uphold the religious foundation of the school.

The main duties of foundation governors are to work in partnership with other governors to:

- ❖ Establish a Christian ethos
- ❖ Foster church and community links
- ❖ Report back to the PCC on a regular basis regarding the work of the school
- ❖ Ensure the National Curriculum and Religious Education is delivered to all pupils
- ❖ Ensure that collective worship is of a high quality and in line with statutory requirements
- ❖ Establish the aims and objectives of the school
- ❖ Report to the parents
- ❖ Ensure provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs
- ❖ Manage budgets and resources (with the headteacher)
- ❖ Write, review and monitor policies e.g. behaviour, health & safety
- ❖ Oversee the maintenance and development of the building and grounds
- ❖ Monitor and evaluating the work of the school

Foundation governors have a particular responsibility for the preservation and development of the religious foundation of the school. Church schools seek to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Foundation governors must therefore be

committed to the Christian faith, in sympathy with the ethos statement of the school and supportive of its mission statement.

Foundation governors are the visible link between school and church.

In order to fulfil these obligations it is essential that all governors maintain a keen interest in the life and work of the school by:

- attending governors' meetings and associated committees
- visiting the school regularly
- knowing 'what' the school is doing and 'how' it is being done
- taking an active part in the public and social life of the school
- reading agenda papers in advance of meetings.

The work demands energy and commitment in addition to an ability to be objective and work calmly under pressure. Prospective volunteers should not be put off. The Diocese, the Local Authority, the DfES and governor organisations offer support and advice. The work of a governor is extremely rewarding and schools value tremendously the time that governors give to the role.

If you would like to know more about the work and role of a foundation governor then please contact Mr Brian Hedley, Assistant Director of Education, at Church House on 0191 2704135 or e mail b.hedley@newcastle.anglican.org

The Nomination of Foundation Governors to a Church of England School

[Prospective governors are requested to read the document 'Thinking about becoming a Foundation Governor?']

The Newcastle Diocesan Education Board works in partnership with Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), who have knowledge of their local community, to promote strong partnerships with church schools in their parish.

Part A (to be completed by the nominee)

Please write or print clearly

Name.....Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other.....

Address.....

Date of birth..... Telephone no.....

..... Email.....

Occupation.....

Are you a communicant Member of the Church of England.....

(If no, what is your Church affiliation? We welcome members from other Trinitarian churches)

.....

.....

Are you a parent of a child at the school? YES / NO

Is this your first term of office as Governor? YES / NO

Are you a Governor in another school? YES/ NO

(If Yes, please give the name of the school.....and note that no person is permitted to serve on more than two different governing bodies simultaneously)

Please tell us (briefly) of the skills you will bring to the role of foundation governor.

-
-
-
-
-
-

- I am willing to serve as a foundation governor for a term of four years from the date of my appointment, if appointed by the Education Board.
- I agree to support and maintain the Christian foundation and voluntary status of the school by ensuring that the school is distinctively Christian and that Christian values, principles and belief are central to its ethos, curriculum, relationships and work.
- I confirm that under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003, I am eligible for, and not disqualified from, appointment as a foundation governor.

Signed.....Date.....

Part B

To be completed by the Ex officio governor

At a meeting ofPCC on.....

it was agreed to nominate.....for appointment as foundation

governor atSchool

To replace (if applicable)

or for a further term of office (underline if applicable).

Signed

Name in block capitals

Post.....

Date.....