

Importance of being a Foundation Governor

A strong, well-led governing body, supportive of the school, its staff and its mission makes an important contribution to the school's well-being and effectiveness. The foundation governors will have an especial care for the school's Christian character.

Being a governor is a major piece of Christian and community service. No one should undertake the role lightly. It involves time, energy and a willingness to become involved in the life of the school on a regular basis over at least four years. Churches should recognise and support all those who undertake this responsibility in a Church school.

Foundation governors and the head teacher should secure a formal structure for monitoring and evaluating the school's effectiveness as a Church school to include all stakeholders.

Governing bodies

Governors are an integral part of the school leadership team and are responsible for:

- setting the Christian ethos of the school;
- developing the school improvement plan
- making decisions about expenditure of the school budget
- challenging and holding the Headteacher to account
- monitoring the implementation of the policies developed in consultation with the school leadership team.

The governing body acts as a critical friend of the school. It has a strategic role to play and is not involved in the day to day running of the school. This is the responsibility of the headteacher.

Role

In your role as a governor you may get involved in the following;

- deciding how the budget should be spent and ensuring good value for money;
- making sure the curriculum provides for and stretches all pupils;
- making sure the school buildings are welcoming, safe and well used;
- setting and monitoring the school's values, aims and policies;
- recruiting and appointing staff and making sure the right development and reward arrangements are in place.

You will be required to give some time to go to meetings and read any supporting documents. We have a Full Governing Body meeting once a term for approximately 2-3 hours, which you are required to attend (except for good reason). You may also be asked to join a committee(s) which usually meets once a term or more frequently if required. Full governor meetings are usually on Tuesdays and sub-committees are usually on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Governors are strongly encouraged to visit the school to help them get to know and understand how the school works. You may also be invited to attend special events at the school such as assemblies, sports days, plays and presentations.

Who are they?

Foundation Governors in Church schools are those appointed by the Church authorities. Often in Anglican schools the incumbent of the parish will be a member of the governing body, by virtue of his/her office - this is called an *ex officio* governor. Other foundation governors will mostly be active lay people.

Some of the foundation governors must be parents of pupils at the school at the time they are nominated, and the Instrument of Government should be clear on who is responsible for ensuring that

the nominees are parents. In Aided schools, there will always be a majority of foundation governors - they must outnumber all the other governors together by two.

Essential Skills/Experience

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Good organisational and planning skills
- Problem Solving and Creativity

Training & Development

The Diocese provides training specific to foundation governors that enables them to understand their role. To find out about training, please contact your local Diocese or vicar.

It is expected that you would attend the Diocesan foundation governor training at some point in your first year as a Foundation Governor.

There are other training opportunities that can be accessed to support you in your role as a Governor and further information can be obtained from your Training Governor and the Priest at Colwick Church.

Particular expectations for foundation governors

- It is expected that foundation governors will attend a church regularly and that they will always be looking for ways to continue their discipleship as Christians. With this in mind we will meet 3 times a year to talk about our roles and discipleship.
- They are also expected to attend one relevant training session per year and will be assigned to a particular committee.
- Foundation governors will be appointed by the PCC or Diocese with reference to the needs of the governing body as a whole.

How to apply

Please fill in the attached form and return to the school office for the attention of Rev'd Amanda Digman or by email to Amanda (revamandadigman@me.com).

The appointment will either be a Diocesan appointment (selected by the Diocesan Board of Education) or a PCC appointment (church council), which will be by secret ballot.

Guidance

The governing body is a vital part of the leadership of the school, and their role in developing the school as a Church school is inspected. The Headteacher, staff and governors should work as a united team, dedicated to realising a shared Christian vision for the school. Expenses may be available for some aspects of the role. Please ask for more information. The role will probably take on average 2 hours per week during term time.

See: <http://www.inspiringgovernors.org/volunteers/> for more information.