

# Foundation Governor Appointments

The Diocesan Board of Education made a decision at the meeting on 9th July 2014 that the appointing authority for all Foundation Governors in CofE schools in the Diocese will be the DBE with effect from 1st September 2014.

The DBE recognise and acknowledge the increasing difficulty in recruiting Foundation Governors. Statutory Guidance published by the Department of Education states that all governing bodies must appoint governors with the right skills and knowledge to contribute to an effective governing body. There are three strategic functions that involve all governors:

- a) ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic development
- b) holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and
- c) overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Governing bodies are seeking to recruit volunteers with relevant skills and experience to ensure that the all governance is effective.

The DBE is currently working with SGOSS (School Governors One Stop Shop), a government organisation that links prospective governors with vacancies in schools. Applicants to SGOSS are usually professionals who request to become governors but don't have links with particular schools. SGOSS forwards all applications to the DBE so that we can ensure that the foundation governor criteria is upheld.

In the event that a foundation governor needs to be removed, the DBE will now have the authority to carry out this function. Removal of a foundation governor is not something taken lightly and only as a last resort after serious consideration.

The DBE will continue to develop and strengthen links between each school and the Parish through the work that is jointly done. PCCs and Trusts that have previously been appointing authorities will continue to nominate governors to the DBE for appointment. As schools reconstitute during the next academic year the Instrument of Government will be change to incorporate the DBE as the appointing authority.

In addition to the strategic role of foundation governors there is an expectation that the preservation and developing of the religious character of the school and the links with the parishes are an integral part of their role.

The DBE values every person who volunteers to help improve their school by being a Governor. How well a Governing Body fulfils their role will have a real impact on the success of the school. The performance of the Governors is assessed through both the OFSTED and SIAMS inspection process.