

Roles and responsibilities of Foundation Governors

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is very grateful that you have put yourself forward to act as a Foundation Governor for a Church School in the Diocese of Exeter.

The role of governor in schools today is challenging and yet many find the opportunity to serve the school in the community very rewarding. The Church School is an example of the Church working in the community and working for the community. Many Christians find that governorship offers an opportunity to serve the community and gain a great deal of satisfaction from bringing their own skill and experiences to the many issues that face the Church School. The term of office is usually four years.

Foundation governors exercise the same general responsibilities as other governors:

- Developing and monitoring school improvement
- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community
- The strategic oversight of the school – it's aims, policies and general conduct
- Appointing staff
- Monitoring RE and Collective worship
- Performance Management of the Headteacher and reviewing staff performance management
- Overseeing the school environment, including buildings
- Budget and financial management
- Ensuring that the school complies with all legal requirements
- Provides a link with the local community

It is essential that a foundation governor is able to:

- Support the principles underlying the Trust Deed of the school in accordance with the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Preserve and develop the religious character of the school
- Understand and consider the issues facing the school without bias
- Observe confidentiality
- Attend governing body meetings and visit the school as part of the monitoring role
- Attend appropriate training
- Give regular reports to the PCC on the work of the school

It is an explicit requirement that all appointed governors have the skills required to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school. It is therefore important that the PCC liaises with the school before making a nomination to ascertain the skills required by the governing body. Foundation governors need to have a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children, the inquisitiveness to question and analyse and the willingness to learn.