



**Application form for the Chester
Diocesan Board of Education
Foundation Governor Register**

Many thanks for your interest in being a foundation governor of a church school in the Diocese of Chester.

Introduction

Governors are the largest voluntary body in the country. They provide a valuable service to the community and help to influence the work of schools and the future of young people.

Effective governance is vital to the success of schools and in church schools foundation governors are key to ensuring the distinctive Christian ethos is preserved and developed.

In the Diocese of Chester there are four types of foundation governors: the ex officio foundation governor who is usually the principal officiating minister of the parish in which the school is situated; those appointed by a charitable trust; those elected by the PCC of the parish of which the school is a part; and those appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) usually on the recommendation of the local minister.

There are some schools, however, where they experience difficulty in filling foundation governor vacancies with suitably committed and skilled people. In order to help such schools and also to allow church members who may worship at a church where there is no church school or there are no vacancies at the church school that they are linked with, but who would like to serve God through church school governance, we have initiated the foundation governor register.

The register will keep details of those who are willing to serve church schools through governance and who have the necessary skills and commitment needed to be an effective governor.

Before you apply

Being a governor is a major piece of **Christian and community service** and churches should recognise and support all those who undertake it. 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. However its benefits include the opportunity to develop experience and knowledge as well as the satisfaction of knowing that other people's lives have been enriched and you are serving God in the community.

In order to achieve the best outcomes possible for the children who attend our church schools it is essential that the governors appointed to the governing body have the commitment and skills needed to lead the school forward.

To ensure the best mix of skills and experience we ask that you complete this expression of interest form detailing the reasons for your application and any skills, experience or training that you feel is relevant to the needs of the governing bodies of church schools.

In order to help with this, a list of skills and experience is given, however it should be noted that it is not expected that every individual governor will have all of those listed, and it is given as a guide. Training will also be available to help develop skills and knowledge.

Foundation governors are specifically appointed in church schools for the purpose of ensuring that the 'religious character, is preserved and developed' (School Governance Regulations 2012) and so we ask that you consider the 'Foundation governor expectations' on the next page prior to completing the form. We also ask that you have your form signed by your local minister (or other appropriate church officer in the case of a vacancy) in order to confirm your faith commitment.

We thank you again for your interest and look forward to receiving your form.

Please return your form to Sue Noakes at sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org or Chester Diocesan Board of Education, Church House, 5500 Daresbury Park, Daresbury, Warrington, WA4 4GE.

Foundation governor expectations

Personal

As a foundation governor you will be expected to be:

- an active member of a Christian worshipping community;
- committed to the work of education within a Christian context;
- enthusiastic and active in promoting school and parish links;
- willing to uphold Church of England foundation.
- willing to undertake any required safeguarding checks;

General

As a governor you will be expected to:

- take a full active role in the work of the governing body;
- attend all full governing body meetings and committee meetings as necessary;
- act as part of a corporate body;
- be prepared to challenge professionals as appropriate to ensure the best outcomes for the children in the school;
- know the school in terms of its strengths and weakness and be able to articulate this;
- attend Diocesan and Local Authority training in order to develop governor skills and knowledge;
- ensure confidentiality and act at all times with integrity;

Specific responsibilities

As a foundation governor you will be expected to:

- ensure the Christian ethos of the school is preserved and developed;
- ensure reports are regularly provided for the PCC on the work of the school (PCC governors), with particular regard to the development of its Christian foundation and to encourage church/school links;
- report back to the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE governors) any issues that may arise in the school;
- ensure that the school provides an act of collective worship for **all** children every day and that it is in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England;
- in aided schools encourage the development of the RE syllabus based on Diocesan guidelines;
- inform the full governing body of any Diocesan advice and guidance;
- ensure that the School Development Plan includes strategy for the development of areas reflected in the SIAMS inspection schedule (the inspection of denominational aspects of the school);
- inform the DBE when headteacher posts become vacant and invite a representative of the Diocesan Director of Education to attend the appointments procedure;
- be prepared to offer challenge and support to the school and parish as they strengthen their links;
- regularly promote the school through the parish events/magazines/newsletters and promote the parish through school newsletters/events etc;

Governor application form

Name:

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Address:

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Email:

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Tel:

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Deanery:

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Church
where you
worship

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Geographical
areas you
are prepared
to consider:

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Have you experience of being a school governor?

YES / NO

If 'yes', please give details and any particular experience (such as chairing subcommittees)

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[A] Skills required by all governors

- A commitment to the education and personal development of children
- An commitment to support the Church foundation of the academy
- A commitment to give time to the academy in terms of attendance at meetings, preparation for meetings, visiting the school and attendance at training
- Good interpersonal skills
- The ability to work as part of a team
- The ability to plan carefully and manage time
- The confidence to ask challenging questions and hold professionals to account

Please comment on any skills listed above in [A] that you feel you have

[B] Knowledge or experience in some of these areas:

- Church school ethos (**Please make some reference to this in your response**)
- Current education legislation
- The Primary Curriculum
- Christian worship
- Religious Education
- Special Educational Needs
- Early Years' Education
- Self-evaluation and the ability to assess impact
- Data analysis and statistics
- The Ofsted inspection process
- The Denominational inspection process
- Project management
- Financial procedures
- Determining best value
- Human resources/personnel
- Performance management and appraisal
- ICT
- Communication
- School buildings and maintenance
- The ability to chair effective meetings

If you have any of the knowledge or experience or training in the areas listed above in [B], please give details.

Please continue on a separate sheet if required

Signed

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Date

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I confirm that the nominee is a "regular and supportive" member of the congregation (eg attends on average at least twice a month) and will be able to support and develop the Christian ethos of a church school.

Name:

Signed:

Church:

Office Held: