



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

School Foundation Governor

Use your gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ





What is a Foundation Governor?

Church of England schools were founded to provide an education for the children of the parish, underpinned by the teachings of the Christian faith.

There are 87 Church of England schools in our diocese and these schools need governors who want to help schools to flourish.

All school governors play a vital part in the life and success of individual schools. They are volunteers from all walks of life, providing a diversity of experience and skills, who want to make a positive contribution to the whole school community.

Foundation Governors are important to the ministry of the Church, as they have a specific duty to preserve and develop the religious character of their schools, ensuring that the Church of England's Vision for Education is lived.

**Growing in God**

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The Church of England Vision for Education is Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good and is a vision of human flourishing for all -

I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness. John 10:10

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Why be a Foundation Governor?

As a Church of England school the governors will foster the Christian values and ethos at all times. Being a Foundation Governor you will be influential in ensuring decisions made will always be made in line with the Christian character of the school.

The role of Foundation Governor can be hugely rewarding. You can benefit a school community and you can benefit personally from:

- The knowledge that you are helping raise standards of educational achievement for children and young people
- Having an opportunity to use your experience and expertise to help improve the quality of children and young peoples' learning
- Having a sense of purpose and achievement in the community as well as being a partner and involved in the community
- Having the opportunity to develop new skills.

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An effective governing body provides the backbone to a school and helps pupils and staff achieve the best possible outcomes.

At St Matthew's, the governors offer encouragement, support and challenge. Their commitment contributes to our success and makes a real difference to the lives of our children.

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What do they do?

Foundation Governors are valuable and important to the ministry of the Church, providing the links between the parish, school and diocese.

Foundation Governors, like all other governors, work to ensure that there is the best possible environment for children's learning and development. They focus on maintaining and improving standards in the school, respecting and involving parents and carers

The most important quality that a governor can bring to a school is enthusiasm and a commitment to wanting to make a positive difference in the school and ensuring that all decisions are underpinned by the school's Christian vision to support the flourishing of the whole school community.

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I enjoy being a foundation governor to give back to the school and community, and ensure that God's light continues to shine for the young people who attend a church linked school.

It is also a joy to be involved with ensuring they get a good start to their education and that they have the opportunity to grow and learn as they take part in activities and life shaping experiences.

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What do they do?

What being a school governor involves:

- Being part of a team
- Attending formal meetings of the school's Governing Body - usually one or two a term.
- Visiting the school to experience the school in action.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Governors work as a team, utilising each person's skills, knowledge and life experience.

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It is a privilege as a Foundation Governor to support the whole school community in securing the best possible outcomes for every child. The role requires time, the ability to absorb and make sense of information, and confidence to ask the sometimes challenging questions. However, ensuring the structure and resources are in place to safely enable every child to aim high, and seeing them develop in their learning, values, and social skills through a school with a strong Christian ethos is very rewarding.

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Who can take up this role?

- Anyone with a vocation for serving in schools with the skills to make a positive difference in children's lives.
- The ex officio Foundation Governor has a right of office and is usually the incumbent clergy unless a substitute governor has been nominated by the Archdeacon
- Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) – normally following consultation with the PCC and/or Archdeacon
- Foundation governors are recommended by the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
- Foundation Governors usually serve a four year term of office which may be renewable.

For more information

Please visit our website pages for exploring your Christian calling available [here](#), where we also have a list of [key dates](#). Resources specific to this role are also available on the diocesan website.

If you would like to discuss anything about this role, please contact:

Jacqui Studd | Schools Administrator
jacqui.studd@cofsuffolk.org



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OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Charity number 248919