

Come on board!

A guide for Foundation Governors



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I have come that you might have life,
life in all its fullness

John 10:10

Introduction

This handbook has been created to give prospective and current Foundation Representatives an overview of what to expect when they become a governor, trustee or member within the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

School governors are vital in our education system and good schools are dependent on good governance. School governors are the largest voluntary organisation in the country. Although this is a position of responsibility, it is also extremely rewarding as you directly affect outcomes for young people in your community.

We would like to express our thanks to all who share their time, skills and experience with our schools so they can be the best they can be.

If you have any questions about your role, please do [visit our website](#) or contact the diocesan Education Team.

Contact details can be found on the final page of this booklet.

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“It is not a school for Christians but a Christian school for all.”

The Rev Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England

What is a Foundation Governor?

All church of England Schools, whether maintained or an academy, must have Foundation Governors, according to their Trust deeds.

Alongside the duties and responsibilities of all governors, Foundation Governors are appointed to preserve and develop the religious character of the school.

What does it mean to preserve and develop the religious character of the school?

- You may be asked to join the Ethos Committee
- You may be asked to monitor preparations for SIAMS
- You may be asked to have oversight of RE or Collective Worship
- Foster and develop a relationship with the local church community
- Attend church school specific training
- Engage with the diocese

The diocesan Education Team is here to support you in your journey as a Foundation Representative – you are not alone!



Who can be a Foundation Governor?

Anyone over the age of 18 can be a governor.

You do not need to be a parent or have any experience working in education.

You just need a commitment to supporting the school to provide the best possible experiences and outcomes for children and young people.

The Diocese of Bath and Wells have three categories of Foundation Governors:

- Category 1 - A practising member of the Church of England
- Category 2 - A practising member of a Christian church of a different nomination
- Category 3 - Not a practising member of a Christian church but willing to uphold the Christian vision and values of the school.

As part of the application process, category 3 applicants will have an informal conversation with one of our education team to make sure that they are aware of and comfortable with the particular responsibilities of the foundation governor's role.



Church of England Vision for Education 2016

The Vision for Education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart.

There are four elements around which the vision is built:

- Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.



What is SIAMS?

All Church of England dioceses and the Methodist Church use the Church of England Education Office's framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule sets out the expectations for the conduct of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican, Methodist and ecumenical Schools under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults.

This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

As a Foundation Governor, you may be involved in monitoring how your school are preparing for this inspection.

We regularly run training sessions for school staff and governors to assist with preparing for SIAMS.



What's in it for me?

- Experience leadership at board level
- Develop transferrable skills such as teamwork, negotiation and strategic decision making and enhance your CV
- Experience oversight of budget control
- A feeling of purpose and the chance to use your skills to help others
- Take part in professional development and training
- Engage with your local community and see the impact of your contribution
- Meet new people and develop friendships



Here to help...

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