

Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) Improving Church School Governance

Duration: 6 months | Delivery: Online | Start date: January 2022



The Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) is aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. The programme has been developed by experts and professionals with a background in church school leadership, governance and inspection.

Course Aims

- Raise your awareness of the changing expectations of Governing Boards and meeting today's challenges in the education sector, whilst holding on to the mission and vision of a church school.
- Engage professionally with others in a collaborative and interactive module.
- Study online in your own time, whilst benefitting from access to personal tutors and group reflections.
- Key themes include the changing context, mission, vision and values, collaborative learning, decisionmaking and accountability.
- Access support with using the online Virtual Learning Environment and Zoom, developing skills which extend to everyday life.



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Participant Feedback

Quotes from previous participants include:

"I have been a headteacher for many years and am now governor for a local primary school. This is the best educational course I have ever been on!"

"Understanding the unique Christian ethos of church schools has given me a different perspective on the governor role and how putting Christ at the centre of the school and teachings also applies to the governing board too."

"I loved the interaction on the discussion forums with other candidates and my tutor. It was very useful to hear different perspectives from other faiths and schools on the material that I may not have picked up on or made me understand some aspects more fully by their comments and experiences."

"It has enabled me to understand my role better and given me the confidence to be more of a 'critical friend' to the HT and to ask appropriate questions."

"The programme has given me the opportunity to reflect on my present practice and make an action plan for improvement. It has also reminded me of the vocational nature of being a governor in a Church school."

Module Overview

This course aims to:

- Support the development of governors own understanding of the distinctive purpose of Christian education; equipping them to support and hold accountable senior leaders in the development of whole school mission and ethos.
- Develop the knowledge and understanding of how a school operates, their legal obligations and the way in which these should be delegated, all within the mission, values and vision of a faith based school.
- Provide an opportunity for those involved in governance in faith based schools to explore aspects of their personal development alongside their professional development.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of collaborative governance.
- Develop a Christian understanding of wisdom and discernment.
- Develop a Christian understanding of accountability in Church School governance.
- Support governors in the appropriate use of data to evaluate spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), prepare for new inspection frameworks (e.g. the statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, SIAMS) and Ofsted.
- Promote the concept of succession planning and the recruitment of new governors, with a particular focus on the impact Christians can make in this role.

Delivery

The course is delivered via 6 online topics, each taken over a 3 week period and allows for school holidays. Each topic contains reading materials, videos, workbooks and interactive discussion forums as well as opportunities for a session on Zoom for the whole cohort during for each topic. A Tutor provides personal support throughout the course. There is plenty of help available for accessing and navigating the online Virtual Learning Environment and Zoom meetings. A networking event is also arranged for past and present students.

Assessment

It is expected that you will undertake a minimum of 2 hours per module and contribute to every discussion forum to complete the course. You will also submit a 500 word Learning Summary to receive your Certificate of Completion.

Dates and Duration

Starts January 2022 and takes 6 months to complete.

Entry requirements

Primarily designed for experienced, new and aspiring governors and trustees (directors) working within church schools. Governors of faith working within non-church schools may find the programme personally enriching.

Cost

Full Rate: £350

Early Bird Discount*: £299

** Applications must be received by 1st November 2021 to be eligible for the Early Bird Discount.*

How to apply

To apply or for more information please contact:

Tel: 0151 291 3834/3061

Email: pld@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk/pld/educationpld

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Case Studies

CASE STUDY 1

Alison Brabner, Governor at Cranfield Church of England Academy.

Did you have any reservations about taking this course and were these overcome?

I didn't have any concerns about the course itself as I was really keen to learn and reflect on my practice, but I was apprehensive about consistently finding the time to devote to each module. However, the course is really flexible – the modules do not have to be completed in one session so you can slot it in around other commitments and there is lots of opportunity for further study / reading which again you either complete at the time or keep as future resources to explore.

To what extent do you feel your knowledge of Church School Governance has been enhanced?

The content is extremely thought provoking but when this is explored further with your fellow participants in the discussion groups, the course really comes alive. The course group tutor was outstanding – extremely knowledgeable and really skilled at questioning and developing the conversation in a supportive but challenging way and I thoroughly enjoyed exploring other people's experience of Governance and learning from them. My knowledge has been enhanced considerably but more importantly, my confidence in questioning from a Church perspective has improved dramatically. Feeling confident to ask the questions you need to ask because it is backed with deeper understanding is so valuable.

What are the next steps for you/your school - do you intend to take further training or implement any new plans at your school?

I think the schools are continually evolving and the course will undoubtedly help this journey unfold and ensure that my governance remains deeply rooted within a Christian ethos. I think it will shape plans rather than fundamentally change them but I think that would very much depend on the situation of an individual school.

CASE STUDY 2

John Thornhill, Chair at All Saints Catholic High School and Savio Salesian College and National Leader of Governance.

What did you personally enjoy the most about this course?

The challenge to many aspects of the role which I might have taken for granted. The opportunity to examine a wide range of relevant issues such as leadership styles and the impact they have on those around us. I so often take much for granted and I needed to think more constructively 'outside the box' to allow me to reflect on my role and improve my contribution to the Board.

To what extent do you feel your knowledge of Church School Governance has been enhanced?

Significantly. I have gained much from the experience, which has given me a sharper understanding of governance in a faith school and the need to underpin everything we do within the teachings of Christ and the gospels. I have realised that any development should be set in this context so that we give all our pupils a clear appreciation of how to behave in a dignified and considerate manner respecting every one as a child of God.

In what ways will your school benefit from you having taken this course?

I hope the school will benefit from a renewed and refreshed approach to my philosophy of Christian values and education. I will bring a broader approach to the ethos for the school ensuring that such values are at the centre of and drive all developments and plans. In one school we will shift the emphasis for supporting those pupils who need it away from such segregation or 'referral' to a programme that encourages them to reflect, recognise and rehabilitate themselves giving them ownership of their development.