

Peterborough Diocese Board of Education

Foundation Governors in Church Schools – Appointment process

Foundation governors in Church Schools in the Diocese are, in the main, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). In a small number of schools that are held on external trusts these individual trusts appoint a proportion of the foundation governors. In addition, some external trusts have agreements with the DBE that the trust will nominate individuals to be appointed as foundation governors. These arrangements are written into the school's Instrument of Government.

The Board of Education wishes to ensure that all schools are well supported by foundation governors who have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and the changing requirements of the Board of Education. The Board will work in partnership with external trust to ensure that all schools are appropriately supported.

Applications

The Board recognises that a church school benefits from governors having a good knowledge of the local community served by the school. The Board will seek applications for new foundation governors from the local community, parish and school. However, at certain times the Board will reserve the right to make appointments of new governors from outside the local community if this will enhance skills and expertise amongst the members of the governing body.

Consultation

The Board will consult with the school (Head and Chair) on the appointment of a foundation governor to ensure that the skills and experience of the applicant supplement the skills and experience already on the governing body.

The Board will consult with the parish clergy, or the PCC in interregnum, on the appointment of the proposed governor to ensure that the applicant has a relationship with the local church.

In the appointment process the Board will seek worshipping members of the local community but will be open to consider appointments from those of other denominations or other faiths who can demonstrate a commitment to a Church of England school without compromising their own faith position. .

Appointment

Once the Board has received satisfactory responses from the consultations with school and parish, the Board will consider the application and make an appointment if appropriate. Any person appointed is expected to complete our two hour roles & responsibilities training to support them in their role as a Governor.

The Clerk, Headteacher and Chair of the governing body will be alerted of the appointment as will the Headteacher of the school. The local cleric will be alerted as we hope that the parish will take the opportunity to mark the appointment in the parish in some way.

Re-appointment

Any foundation governor coming to the end of their term of office will be asked by the Board if they wish to continue. On receipt of an application to continue the Board will check the governor's training and attendance records as Board's policy is that one session of Diocesan training must be undertaken within every four year term of office. The Board will also consult with the parish and the school. Once these consultation responses have been received the Board will consider the re-appointment. However, if no diocesan training has been undertaken, the Board will re-appoint the governor on the condition that they undertake the agreed course of diocesan training (Roles & Responsibilities of an Existing Church School governor) within the first year of re-appointment. If they do not do so their term of office will expire with immediate effect.

The Director may seek a meeting with the governor in certain cases.

Training

Being a church school governor is a challenging a job. The Board offers a comprehensive training programme for all church schools governors with particular reference to the denominational inspection framework. This training is designed to enable all governors but especially foundation governors to keep up-to-date with the ever changing educational scene and the developing expectations of the Board.

The Board seeks to ensure that all foundation governors are appropriately equipped to carry-out their role on behalf of the Board and that is why there is requirement to attend at least one session of training every four years.

It is expected that foundation governors will work co-operatively with other school governors and explain the responsibilities of the governing body of a church school in regard to the Trust Deed.