

# Foundation Governors

## Introduction

Foundation governors in church schools are, in the main, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. They play a full role in the management of the school alongside their governor colleagues of other categories, but have a special responsibility to ensure that the individual school's trust deed, through the Instrument of Government, is honoured in the provision of education offered to the pupils in their school.

## Church School Governance

Foundation governors will constitute the majority of governors in **Voluntary Aided Church schools**. Governors in VA schools are responsible for the employment of staff, admissions and the provision of RE. They work with the Diocese with respect to procurement of capital works (the Governing body contributes 10%).

In **Voluntary Controlled schools**, the foundation governors are the minority on the governing body. Religious Education will follow the Locally Agreed Syllabus, the Local Authority will procure capital work, employ the staff and set and administer the admissions policy.

## The School's Curriculum

Foundation governors should strive to ensure that the school's curriculum provides an education which includes high quality Religious Education and

### Foundation Governors are expected to:

- Work co-operatively with other school governors to monitor, challenge and support the development and performance of the school in all areas.
- Explain the responsibilities of the whole governing body of the church school with regard to the Trust Deed.
- Act as a critical friend of the school, challenging the Headteacher and staff and offering pastoral support alongside the need for confidentiality.
- Promote the importance of the Church School distinctiveness.

a daily act of Christian worship in accordance with the Church of England. The impact of this provision is inspected through the Denominational Inspection.

## Denominational Inspections

All Church Schools are inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act with a new schedule introduced in 2018. This inspection framework will assess 'How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?' In order to answer this question, 7 strands are explored:

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Hope and Aspiration
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- Collective Worship
- Religious Education

Each inspection will identify key strengths of the school and focus for development in the coming years. It is the responsibility of the foundation governors to ensure that the key issues for development are addressed prior to the next inspection.

SIAMS inspections take place on a 5 yearly cycle for schools graded good or better and a 3 yearly cycle for those graded below this.

## Who can be a Foundation Governor?

Foundation governors are initially sought from the parish in which the school sits but anybody who is willing and able to uphold the Christian distinctiveness of the school will be considered by the Diocesan Board of Education after consultation with both parish and school. It is hoped that a Foundation Governor would pray for their school and therefore be a practising Christian.



**NB:** DBE policy is currently that members of school staff cannot become foundation governors and spouses should not serve on the same governing body.