

**A Foundation Governor should be familiar with two important legal documents:**

### **1. The Instrument of Government**

This sets out the composition of the school's Governing Body. The Clerk and the Diocesan Department for Education will have copies. It includes an ethos statement, recommended by the National Society and adopted by the majority of C of E schools:

*"Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop the religious character in accordance with the principles of the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to service its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils."*

### **2. The Trust Deed**

This sets out the founder's intentions. The school should be able to provide a copy of this.

### **Governing Body Responsibilities to the Diocese of Hereford**

- The Diocesan Director of Education must be informed of an impending vacancy for a Headteacher or Deputy so that a departmental representative can visit to give advice and support new appointments
- The Diocesan Department for Education must be informed if a Foundation Governor appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education resigns

### **Training**

In order to ensure that Foundation Governors are fully equipped to carry out their role it is compulsory that they attend DBE training at least once during their term of office.



# The Roles and Responsibilities of Church School Foundation Governors

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## **This guidance is intended for anyone considering becoming a Foundation Governor in a church school**

School Governors form the largest voluntary body in the UK. The importance of effective Christian governors in our church schools cannot be underestimated. The duties of a Church of England Foundation Governor are wide ranging and, in addition to having the responsibilities of other governors, they are the formal Christian presence and link between school and church.

Foundation Governors have a responsibility to ensure the preservation and development of the religious foundation of the school. This means ensuring that the church school is a place with a distinctive character where the Christian faith is alive and practised.

We believe in the Diocese of Hereford that within our Church Community there are people who have valuable skills to offer. One of the skills any church school Governing Body needs is to understand the Christian character of the school and to safeguard its foundation.

A Church of England school's Governing Body is responsible for clarity of vision and strategic direction, ensuring that the school has identified what its Christian ethos means.

Being a Governor is:

- ❖ A great opportunity
- ❖ A considerable responsibility
- ❖ A huge privilege

## **Being a Governor means:**

- Participating fully in the work of the Governing Body ie regular attendance at meetings, accepting a fair share of the responsibilities, including service on at least one committee
- Having an interest in the task, and the energy for the role
- Getting to know the school well, taking part in school activities and carrying out at least two monitoring visits a year
- Taking up appropriate training opportunities
- Being both challenging and supportive of the school and the staff within it
- Acting professionally with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the school
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher and senior leadership team to account for the educational performance of its pupils and the performance management of staff

## **A Foundation Governor has the additional responsibility to:**

- Build a productive and supportive relationship with the headteacher and staff in promoting the Christian ethos of the school
- Be committed to the Christian pastoral support and wellbeing of the school community
- Ensure the school's Christian distinctiveness is developed and consistently addressed during Governing Body discussions