

# Peterborough Diocese Board of Education

DBE - 318

## 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. In a small number of schools that are held on external trusts these individual trusts appoint a proportion of the foundation governors. This applies to the following schools:

The Kings School, Peterborough  
All Saints Primary School, Northampton  
Clipston Primary School  
Easton Garford Primary School

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. Examples of schools with this arrangement are:

Harpole Primary School  
Mears Ashby Primary School

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 Voluntary Aided schools where the Board appoints a number of foundation governors, 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. Where an applicant is not known to the local parish, a Board member will arrange to meet with the applicant to determine their suitability for the role of foundation governor.

## **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.

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 2 hr session of Diocesan training must be undertaken within every four year term of office. If no diocesan training has been undertaken, the governing body will be requested to appoint the governor to an associate member position on the governing body until an agreed course of diocesan training can be undertaken. The Director may seek a meeting with the governor in certain cases. The Board will also consult with the parish. Once these consultation responses have been received the Board will consider the re-appointment. The appointment will be acknowledged in the usual way to all interested parties.

## **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.

The Board expects that every governor will attend at least one training session in every term of office, and would look for evidence of diocesan training in every school year.

## **“Flying” governors**

The Board will seek to establish a list of serving governors willing to work on other church school governing bodies for limited periods of time to address particular issues. Any current serving governors who feel they have the time and particular expertise to undertake this role are asked to contact the Director. Please note that current regulations do not allow any governor to sit on the governing body of more than 2 schools at the same time.

**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.**