

Peterborough Diocese – Board of Education ‘Joint’ appointments to Governing Bodies Proposed protocol

DBE/13/434

1. Background

A small number of Instruments of Government of Church Schools in the Diocese provide for bodies other than the Diocesan Board of Education to make what might be termed “joint appointments” of Foundation Governors with the DBE. The precise details vary, but include:

- (a) An external Trust or Charity makes a nomination for appointment and the DBE appoints (for example the Ekins Trust, at Weston Favell); and
- (b) An external Trust or Charity makes a nomination and the DBE jointly appoints with the Trust/Charity (for example, the Clipston School Charity).

At some schools, the Instrument provides for the external trust to make the appointment itself, without reference to the DBE.

2. The Foundation Governor role and responsibilities

In cases (a) and (b) above, the appointment is the sole or shared responsibility of the DBE. The appointee will be one of the DBE’s representatives on the Governing Body and will be expected to undertake the full range of responsibilities of a Foundation Governor, including promoting the Christian distinctiveness of the school and acting as landlord’s representative in respect of the Church’s asset (the premises). It is vital that the appointee understands these roles and is both willing and able to undertake them.

3. Suggested protocol

In case (a), there is no reason for us not to use the usual DBE application form, endorsed by the nominating body, on which the prospective governor indicates their suitability for the role. Provided that this indicates, in the Director’s view, an appropriate level of understanding and commitment, the Board will be asked to approve the appointment. The appointee will be reminded of the Board’s requirement to attend training and invited to attend *Roles and Responsibilities* session at the earliest opportunity.

If the Director has concerns about the appointee’s suitability, she will refer back to the nominating body for a frank discussion.

In case (b), the procedure is likely to be different. It would not always be appropriate for the external body’s appointee to fill in an application form (as they are already endorsed for appointment by them). The DBE needs, in this instance, to be re-assured that it can be a party to the joint appointment. The

prospective joint appointee will be invited for an informal “interview” with the DDE or her Deputy, during which the responsibilities of a DBE Foundation Governor will be outlined and their commitment to fulfilling them ascertained. Again, provided that there is, in the Director’s view, an appropriate level of understanding and commitment, the Board will be asked to approve the joint appointment. The appointee will be reminded of the Board’s requirement to attend training and invited to attend *Roles and Responsibilities* session at the earliest opportunity.

Similarly, if the Director has concerns about the appointee’s suitability, she will refer back to the external body for a frank discussion.