

CHARACTERISTICS AND ROLE OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Governors are people who have an interest in the role of our schools and wish to make a positive contribution to their communities. They will have enquiring minds and contribute to the effective day-to-day running of the school and the education achievements of pupils.

A governing body's overriding responsibility is to work in partnership with the headteacher to promote continuous improvement in the performance of the school. This involves the establishment of a development plan, the setting of challenging but achievable targets and the interpretation of information to assess progress and determine appropriate action.

"The governing body is well-informed, regularly involved in the life of the school and a supportive, challenging & critical friend to the Headteacher and leadership team..."

To be eligible for appointment as a foundation governor, enquirers must be practising and committed Catholics, and since holding the office of foundation governor is a form of service or ministry in the Church, they have to confirm that they are eligible and willing to serve in accordance with the commission from the Bishop.

The appointment of foundation governors is entirely at the discretion of the Bishop of Middlesbrough, for schools within his jurisdiction. Consequently, foundation governors may, on occasion, be removed from office at the discretion of the Bishop.



"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

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Diocese of Middlesbrough

***Help Schools
Help Children
Become a Foundation Governor***

School governors represent the largest volunteer force in the country.

Devolved local management of schools has influenced the day-to-day managerial function of head teachers and the strategic role of governing bodies. A consequence of this devolvement is that governors recruited from the local community are highly valued for the skills, experience and objectivity that they bring to decision-making.

Being a foundation governor can be stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding. If you have the enthusiasm and desire to become closely involved in the running of the school then please contact us.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

In Catholic Voluntary Aided schools, the office of foundation governor encompasses the responsibilities common to all governors, but also a great deal more.

Foundation governors offer their services and are called to serve in a specific ministry. Individually and collectively, they are commissioned with the responsibility of assisting the Bishop by sustaining and developing the Catholic ethos and distinctive nature of the school in which they serve and to ensure that the school is at all times conducted in accordance with

the provision of the Diocesan Trust Deed, and determinations made by the Bishop and his Trustees and the following principles, all of which are included in the commissioning letter

sent to them when they are appointed.

“The Headteacher and governors have created an effective team that has worked relentlessly in raising standards in the basic skills”

(extract taken from OfSTED Report)



PRINCIPLES:

- To give clear witness, as individuals and as a team, to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and assume responsibility for governing the School according to Canon Law, the Catechism, and the teachings of the Catholic Church in general and Diocesan norms in particular.
- To comply with the guidance on admissions, staffing, building maintenance and curriculum as published by Diocesan Schools Service Department and convey this to the other members of the governing body.
- To seek to appoint Catholic teachers who combine personal conviction and practice of the Faith with the qualities and experience required by particular posts.



- To represent the Bishop on the Governing Body with particular reference to the Catholic ethos of the school by ensuring that the whole curriculum of the school is rooted in an understanding of life in conformity with the teaching of the Gospel and the Catholic church. To achieve this, they must ensure that the general religious and liturgical life of the school conforms to Diocesan guidelines.

- To take particular care that, with the help and advice of the Diocesan Religious Education Adviser, Religious Education has first place in the curriculum, and embraces and enlivens every subject; and that the school follows a truly Catholic programme of religious and moral education approved by the diocese.



- To consider not only the interests of the school in which they serve as foundation governor, along with its pupils, staff and parents, but to comply with diocesan policy and the interests of other Catholic schools and the interests of Catholic education throughout the diocese.



TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Both the Diocese and LA's value the voluntary contribution of its governors and in return aim to provide a high-quality training and support service. Governors are able to access this support in a variety of ways including training courses and a designated helpline.