



## **Parochial Church Council Responsibilities when nominating Foundation Governors in Maintained Schools and Single Academy Trusts**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC), after consultation with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the school, will nominate an appropriate person. For schools within a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), the PCC will be informed of local appointments.

Foundation Governors are the DBE's representatives on the governing body and must act in the best interests of children and young people and the whole school community. They need to be mindful of DBE priorities and agreed protocols and policies. Regular attendance at meetings and commitment to the life of the school is essential. We are hugely grateful to the large number of our parishioners who devote considerable time and energy to the governance of the schools.

In seeking nominations it is good practice for PCCs to:

- Ensure that the school and especially the Chair of Governors have been consulted about the nomination so that their priorities and needs for particular areas of expertise can be taken into account.
- Have regard for the experience of the 'ex-officio' governor (usually the parish priest) and their knowledge of the needs of the governing body.
- Bring the vacancy to the attention of the congregation.
- Set up a PCC Foundation Governor Nomination Sub-Committee to consider nominations.
- Ensure that the Anglican nature of the school's Foundation is represented on its governing body and that the channel between PCC and school is kept open. Membership of the Anglican Church is, therefore, highly desirable but not always essential.
- Consult with other local churches to help in the search of the best candidates. At least two thirds Committed Christians from mainstream churches, other than Anglican, would also be suitable. A PCC may nominate someone from another parish if there is a need.

As Church Schools were once a 'gift' from the church, so now these same schools have become a gift to the church. They offer legitimate and creative opportunities for the church to work with children, young people and their families. Many churches now contribute to the 'extra-curricular activities' that schools offer, and PCC members will want to keep up to date with new opportunities and developments in their church schools.

In nominating foundation governors, PCCs are therefore asked to:

- Actively review nominations when due for election;
- Consider the appointment of foundation governors in the light of the needs of the school;
- Have regard for the experience of the 'ex-officio' governor (usually, but not always the parish priest) and their knowledge of the needs of the governing body;

In seeking nominations PCCS may like to:

- Discuss the matter with the school (perhaps invite the headteacher or chair of governors to a PCC meeting or arrange for some PCC members to visit the school);
- Bring the matter to the attention of the congregation in a Sunday Service;
- Consult with other local churches (it is not essential that a foundation governor is a communicant Anglican) and the wider community;
- Draw upon the expertise of the Diocesan Board of Education;

Usually the local church is involved in choosing Foundation Governors. Often this task can end up by default almost wholly on the shoulders of the clergy, and we are most grateful for their support in this vital role. However, we would like to encourage the PCC to consider its role in this process, so that participation is increased and the burden on clergy lessened.

It is important that PCCs consult with appropriate people in the school, - the headteacher and Chair of Governors – who will know what key skills are needed on the governing body.

*In exceptional circumstances it is occasionally necessary to ask an individual to step down as a foundation governor. Such instances are rare, but the Board of Education reserves the right to remove from office any foundation governor whose conduct in the judgement of the Supporting Church Schools Committee of the DBE does not fulfil the role in accordance with DBE expectations, as laid down in the code of conduct, or whose conduct is not in keeping with the Christian character of the school. The policy for removal of Foundation Governors will be followed and is available on the DBE website.*