



Monmouth Diocesan Trust

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Foundation Governor Information

What are Foundation governors?

Foundation governors are governors who are members of a church school Governing Body (GB).

In many ways Foundation governors are the same as other governors:

- In serving a four-year term of office, which may be renewable
- In having a general responsibility for the conduct of the school
- In promoting high standards of educational achievement and monitoring and evaluating school performance
- In being responsible for formulating policies which produce a well-managed school

However, Foundation governors bring an added critical element to the role in representing the church/faith voice within the Governing Body. The role of Foundation Governor is a valuable and important part of the ministry of the Church.

The Church's interest in education stems from a philosophy that education is far more than acquiring knowledge and academic success. It begins from a position that this is God's world and everything in it has value and that every child has a right to a spiritual and moral education. In the Diocese of Monmouth, our vision is that we are working towards becoming the people God wants us to be. In this respect, we also have the opportunity, in working with our schools, to support the children in these school in becoming the people God wants them to be.

Each school has its own Instrument of Government. This states that:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church-in-Wales and in partnership with 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 belief 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.

So, there is a great responsibility, for all governors (but especially foundation governors) in trying to ensure the continuation of the Christian ethos and character of the school.

How many Foundation governors are on each church school governing body?

This depends on whether the school is Voluntary Aided (VA) or Voluntary Controlled (VC). In VA schools, Foundation Governors are in the majority and in VC schools they are in a minority.

The exact composition of a particular school's GB is determined by the specific Instrument of Government for that school. Members usually include the Head Teacher, the local incumbent/priest (*ex officio* role), other foundation governors, local authority governors, a parent governor, a teacher governor, among others.

How are Foundation governors appointed?

Most Foundation governors are appointed by one of two routes:

1. By the local Parochial Church Council (PCC), or
2. By the Diocesan Trust (following a recommendation from the applicant's local church leader/priest)

Those who apply to be Foundation governors do not have to be practising Anglicans; however, they will be expected to be practising Christians who will ensure the continuation of the Christian ethos and character of the school.

How can Foundation governors play a full and effective role in representing the church?

- In modelling Christian values – in relationships within the GB and with the staff and school community such that all are respected and valued.
- In influencing the content of policies – such that they are reflecting God's love for the world and providing the right balance of accountability and care
- In supporting collective worship – and ensuring it is a meaningful daily part of the school schedule in enriching the school community and underpinning it with prayer
- In supporting the teaching of Religious Education – to ensure enough time and resources are directed towards this purpose
- In being a link between the faith community and the school – and ensuring that work in schools is supported and that school communities are kept in a cycle of prayer
- In helping to recruit good staff for the school – especially senior leaders who will have a particular role in upholding the Christian ethos and character of the school (and working with the Diocesan Director of Education in this regard).

What support/training do foundation governors get?

The school regional consortia provide further information and details of training for all governors.

Which school?	Which consortium?	Website for governor support?
For schools not in Cardiff	Education Achievement Service (EAS)	https://sewales.org.uk/Governor-Support-Development.aspx
For schools in Cardiff	Central South Consortium (CSC)	https://www.cscjes.org.uk/governors

All newly appointed governors are required to do induction training and training to understand schools' performance data. There are many other training options depending on your needs and the needs of the GB.

The Director of Education from the Diocese of Monmouth is available to offer support and advice as necessary. The Diocese is in the process of developing more formal support/training and details of this will be circulated to all diocesan school GBs when available.

If you would like to know more about this role or have specific questions, which haven't been answered in this document, please contact Dr Annette Daly for further information:

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