



## **JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

# **Guidance for Foundation Governors**

**Our Vision for Education:  
Deeply Christian,  
Serving the Common Good**

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# Introduction

I would like to start by thanking you for agreeing to become a Foundation Governor. The role of Foundation Governor is a vital role within Church Schools to ensure that we continue to maintain our church vision and ethos.

Joshua Watson had a vision back in 1811 that the poor of the parish should all have access to education. He wanted to see a church school in every parish in England. Today we have over 4600 Church schools across England all continuing with Joshua Watson's vision of providing an education that 'transforms outcomes for young people by combining academic rigour with a rounded approach to personal development, rooted in the worship and other shared practices that characterize life in their community'. (Vision for Education 2016:3) Today there are over 22,500 foundation governors across England all ensuring that the vision is being carried out.

Being a foundation governor means that you have taken on the role of ensuring that the Christian ethos of the school is secure, that the school is adhering to its trust deed. Church schools are also subject to additional inspections called SIAMS inspections which take place every 3-5 years. Governors play an important role in this process and have responsibility for ensuring that their school is ready for inspection.

The Education team here at the Diocese of Portsmouth and Diocese of Winchester are here to help and support you carry out your role as a foundation governor and are here to support your governing board and school leadership team in ensuring that you are doing the very best for your pupils.

This booklet will provide you with a range of information that will be useful in your role as a governor and will also provide links to other sources of information. Please use this as a starting point. You will find a range of training available from both your local authority and the diocese to support you in your role. You can also contact me at any time using the contact details below if you need any advice or support.

Thank you so much for agreeing to be a foundation governor. I really do hope that you enjoy your role which will be both challenging and rewarding. You will receive a monthly Church School Governance Update from the Education Team and please don't forget to become familiar with our [website](#) which will contain documents and information that you will find useful.

*Sharon*

Sharon Brueton

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# A Short History of Church Schools

The Church of England has been committed to providing education for the past 200 years. The founding of the National Society in 1811 led to a flourishing of provision of education for the poor in parishes ([www.churchofengland.org/education.aspx](http://www.churchofengland.org/education.aspx)). By the time of the national census of 1851, forty years later, the Church had established 17,000 schools.

State provision for public education did not come until the Education Act of 1870 and it operated by supplementing rather than replacing voluntary provision. At the time of the outbreak of the Second World War, after seventy years of state provision, the churches were together still providing schooling for nearly a third of the children of school age.

The Education Act of 1944 provided a new deal in which church schools were offered the option of increased state funding and control becoming Voluntary Controlled Schools, or lesser state support and greater independence becoming Voluntary Aided Schools. There is a third category, Foundation schools, which are often the former Grant Maintained schools. There are also Church of England Academies, Church schools that have chosen or have been required to convert to academy status. Any school converting takes the Church status with it and will still be expected to be the best church school it can be. Regular Inspections will also take place to ensure that Church schools maintain this.

Today there are over 4600 Church of England schools and academies across England which make up over 20% of all state funded schools. Over 26% of Primary Schools are Church schools and 6% of Secondary schools.

(Vision of Education, 2016)

In 2016, the Church of England released its Vision of Education, Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.

‘This is a Vision not just for Church of England schools, but for a Church of England Vision for Education. The Vision embraces spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. A vision of human flourishing for all, that embraces excellence and academic rigour as well as a wider framework. It has identified 4 basic elements which permeate the vision –

- Wisdom
- Hope
- Community
- Dignity

The Church of England aims to deliver excellence in education and want the best outcomes for children and young people so that they can achieve their fullest potential’ (Vision for Education, 2016) Church schools were set up to provide education for the poor of the parish for all faiths and none.

As a foundation governor, please take some time to look at the [Church of England Vision for Education](#) which can be found on the Church of England website.

# The Role of the Governing Board

## The Purpose of Governance

The Purpose of Governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

All boards, no matter what type of school or how many schools they govern, have 3 core functions.

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure it is money well spent.

Effective Governance is based on 6 key features –

- Strategic Leadership
- Accountability
- People
- Structures
- Compliance
- Evaluation

Strategic Direction -This involves setting the organisations overall strategic framework, including its vision and strategic priorities. It includes responsibility for setting and modelling its culture, values and ethos.

Accountability - This is about creating robust accountability for executive leaders. This means holding them to account for both educational performance and for financial and organisational performance, ensuring that money is well spent.

People – The effectiveness of a board depends on the quality of its people and how they can work together with executive leaders. Boards must build an effective team.

Structures - There are specific structures for maintained schools and academies in how governing boards must be constituted and maintained.

Compliance - The board has a range of key duties and responsibilities that they must adhere to and ensure that they are reviewed.

Evaluation – Regular monitoring and evaluation should be carried out by the board to ensure the effectiveness of governance and the performance of the school(s).

Please ensure that you become familiar with the [Governance Handbook](#) which will discuss the role of the Governing Board in more detail.

# The Role of the Parish

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the incumbent was usually the chair of governors. With the workload of modern incumbents, we do not recommend incumbents take on the role of chair. However as a mark of how important it is to have the very best people serving on the governing body of your Church school and how important a Church school is for the mission to the Church, parishes should be looking to nominate people who have sufficient time, skills and commitment that they would be highly desirable to be elected as the chair.

It is vitally important the governing body of a Church school conducts regular (usually annual) skills audits and communicates with the parish (the incumbent and the PCC); sharing with them the skills needed for their particular governing body. The incumbent and the PCC can recruit from the parish, the congregation and beyond, suitably skilled people and only nominate people of the highest calibre to the Diocese for appointment. Governance is also an expression of Christian service to the community.

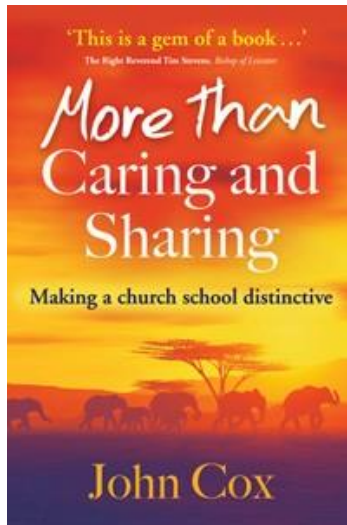
- Governing boards must communicate fully what is involved to anyone considering nomination as a governor.
- The parish must talk to the school (headteacher and the governing board) to find out what skills are needed on the governing body.
- The parish must search the community (the parishioners and beyond) for people who have the time and skills to ensure their Church school is the best school it can be and the best Church school it can be.
  - The parish may need to consider the school as the top priority when asking parishioners to serve the parish.
  - The parish may look to other neighbouring Anglican churches, for suitable people to nominate.
  - The parish may look to other Christian denominations in the local community for suitable people to nominate.
- The parish must recognise that their church school is a place of mission and offer pastoral and spiritual support to the pupils, parents, staff and governors.
- The parish should consider its Church school a vital part of the parish profile and include the work of school in any clergy appointments. Many parishes ask candidates to lead a collective worship in the school as part of the clergy appointment process.

# A School's Distinctive Christian Character

## More Than Caring and Sharing

Church schools are different not because they are exclusive but because they are distinctive.

This book seeks to help all concerned with education in church schools to explore what makes a Church school distinctive. John Cox, a retired Diocesan Director of Education, suggests that even Christian values are not enough – it is the beliefs that underpin these values that makes the real difference: belief about God, about what it is to be human, about the Church and about the world. This is worked out in terms of the Kingdom values such as justice, forgiveness, gratitude, generosity, truth and love.



ISBN 978-1-84867-353-3

Available from Kevin Mayhew [www.kevinmayhew.com](http://www.kevinmayhew.com)

***We recommend this book to all involved with the leadership of church schools in our dioceses.***

The Christian ethos of the school should run like a thread through every element of school life, so one of the 'easy' questions for governors when looking at any policy is: "Is our ethos showing?", and if it isn't then how can we make changes to ensure that it does? It really should be a question for every policy and every event, not just those relating directly to RE or to collective worship. To model the distinctively Christian nature of the school in every area of school life is something which all governors sign up to corporately when they take on the role of governor at a Church school, and of course the way in which people interact with each other is the cornerstone on which everything else is built.

Trust, mutual respect and Christian love should underpin conversations, discussions and debates, and set within this context people are able to have a truly robust and constructive discussion without risk of upset or offence. Governors should be asking questions:

- Why are we doing this?
- Why are we doing it like this?
- Is this reflecting that we are a Church school?
- How does this fit into our school development plan?
- Are we being distinctively Christian in how we do/handle this?
- Are our principles and values shared and owned by the whole school community?
- Are our values inclusive?
- Do all members of the school community have a respect for faith and cultural diversity?
- Do our activities and displays encourage reflection?
- Are we proud to be a church school?

# Categories of Church School

	<b>Voluntary Aided schools</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled schools</b>	<b>Foundation schools</b>	<b>Academies</b>
<b>Buildings</b>	<p>Owned by the by trustees:</p> <p>The trust deed determines the basis on which the school is run. New building and repairs are the responsibility of the governors (supported by grant from the Education Funding Agency up to 90% of approval expenditure).</p> <p>Playing fields are usually provided by the LA.</p>	<p>Owned by the by trustees.</p> <p>The trust deed determines how the school shall be run where the law does not make this clear. All replacement, repairs and other building costs fall on the LA.</p> <p>Playing fields are usually provided by the LA.</p>	<p>Owned by the by trustees.</p> <p>The trust deed determines the basis on which the school shall be run where the law is silent.</p> <p>Playing fields are usually owned by the Governing Body. All building works funded from LA.</p>	<p>Owned by the Trustees.</p> <p>All building costs and repairs are the responsibility of the Academy Trust.</p> <p>Playing fields are in long-leasehold ownership for the Academy Trust.</p>
<b>Staff: Teaching and support</b>	<p>Employed by the Governing Body, usually paid by the LA.</p> <p>Governors may seek evidence of Christian commitment from applications for teaching posts.</p>	<p>Appointed by the Governing Body, employed and usually paid by the LA.</p> <p>Governors are bound by LA appointing policies.</p>	<p>Employed by the Governing Body, usually paid by the LA.</p> <p>Governors will be able to select teachers within the LA policy.</p> <p>Governors are bound by LA appointing policies.</p>	<p>The Academy Trust is the employer of all staff and paid by a payroll provider determined by the Trust as employer.</p> <p>The trust can determine whether they require evidence of Christian commitment from applications for teaching posts.</p>



	<b>Voluntary Aided schools</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled schools</b>	<b>Foundation schools</b>	<b>Academies</b>
<b>Worship</b>	Distinctively Christian; reflects the Anglican tradition and can include worship in the parish church.	Distinctively Christian; reflects the Anglican tradition and can include worship in the parish church.	Distinctively Christian; reflects Anglican tradition and can include worship in the parish church	Distinctively Christian; reflects Anglican tradition and can include worship in the parish church.
<b>Funding</b>	Local Formula Funding	Local Formula Funding	Local Formula Funding	Academy Trusts receive their funding directly from Education Funding Agency and retain a % of funding before devolving remaining funds on a monthly basis to the academy.
<b>Admissions</b>	The Governing Body determines the policy and make the decisions in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code. They must consult the LA, the Diocese and all other admission authorities in the area each year.	The LA is responsible for admissions, but must consult the Governing Body each year.	The Governing Body determines the policy and make the decisions in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code. They must consult the LA, the Diocese and all other admission authorities in the area each year.	The Academy Trust is the admission authority. The policy is determined and implemented by the Trustees. Academy Trusts can add or remove this criteria on any future policies once an academy joins a Trust in their role as the Admissions Authority.

	<b>Voluntary Aided schools</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled schools</b>	<b>Foundation schools</b>	<b>Academies</b>
<b>Advice</b>	LA has certain rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. Diocesan Directors of Education have parallel rights.	LA has certain rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. The Governing Body may give similar rights to the Diocesan Director of Education.	LA has certain rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. The Governing Body may give similar rights to the Diocesan Director of Education.	<p>The Academy Trust is directly responsible to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The LA would not be invited to attend post-conversion meetings and have no involvement in the academy. They should not be contacted to provide advice unless an SLA has been procured with the LA for this service.</p> <p>The Articles of Association will state whether the Diocese will be represented as a corporate member and have a right to attend meetings and to give advice.</p>
<b>Inspection</b>	OFSTED inspectors scrutinize school's self-evaluation. SIAMS (Section 48) inspectors inspect Church School Distinctiveness, including leadership, RE, worship, spiritual and moral development and school ethos.	OFSTED inspectors scrutinize school's self-evaluation. SIAMS (Section 48) inspectors inspect Church School Distinctiveness, including leadership, RE, worship, spiritual and moral development school ethos.	OFSTED inspectors scrutinize school's self-evaluation. SIAMS (Section 48) inspectors inspect Church School Distinctiveness, including leadership, RE, worship, spiritual and moral development and school ethos.	<p>OFSTED inspectors scrutinize school's self-evaluation. SIAMS (Section 48) inspectors inspect Church School Distinctiveness, including leadership, RE, worship, spiritual and moral development and school ethos.</p> <p>Inspections in Academies are usually (but not always) on an "as was" basis.</p>

	<b>Voluntary Aided schools</b>	<b>Voluntary Controlled schools</b>	<b>Foundation schools</b>	<b>Academies</b>
<b>Governors</b>	Foundation Governors outnumber other governors.	Foundation Governors make up, up to 25%.	Usually Foundation Governors make up, up to 25%.  This can depend on the trust deed.	As determined by the Mem and Articles of Association if it is a standalone academy.  For the MAT Trustees to determine if an academy within a MAT. There could be Local Governing Bodies but the Trust determines their constitution.

The majority of schools in the Diocese of Portsmouth and Diocese of Winchester are Voluntary Controlled or Voluntary Aided Schools. We have a number of Stand Alone Academy Trusts and schools who have joined Multi Academy Trusts including our own Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academy Trust. (P&WDAT)

We have very few Foundation Schools.

# Categories of Governor

[The 2012 Constitution Regulations](#) identify the different categories of governor that a governor can be in a maintained school. The regulations summarise the provision made for each governor type.

The Governing Board for maintained schools must not be smaller than 7 governors and must include:

- at least 2 parent governors
- The headteacher (unless the headteacher resigns as a governor)
- One staff governor
- One Local Authority governor
- As many co-opted governors as the board feel is necessary.
- For Voluntary Aided Church Schools, they must have a number of foundation governors as to outnumber all other governors by up to 2.
- For Voluntary Controlled schools, they must have at least 2 but not more than 25% of their total as Foundation Governors.

(Note, separate rules apply for academy trusts.)

Parent Governors – Elected by the parents of the school. The method of election and appointment is set out in the Constitution regulations. Parent governors can in exceptional circumstances be removed from the governing board by the governing board. They are usually elected and appointed for a term of 4 years.

Staff Governors – Any paid member of staff can be elected as a staff governor. They are usually elected and appointed for a term of 4 years. If they cease to be employed by the school, then their role as a governor also ceases.

Headteacher – The headteacher is a member of the governing board by virtue of their office. Some headteachers choose to resign as a governor. If this happens then no one can take their place.

Local Authority Governors – Nominated by the Local Authority but appointed by the governing board. They are usually appointed for a term of 4 years.

Foundation Governors – Usually in Church Schools. They are nominated by the Parish and appointed by the Diocese Board of Education. The term of office is usually for a term of 4 years. A Foundation Governor is someone who in the opinion of the Parish and the Diocese has the skills to carry out all the governing boards functions and to

- Ensure that the schools character is preserved and developed.
- That the school is conducted in accordance with the foundations governing documents – In the case of Church Schools, the Trust deed.

Partnership Governors – Appointed by the governing board. They are usually appointed for a term of 4 years. (There are now not many schools that have Partnership Governors.)

Co-opted Governors – These are appointed by the governing board. They are people who in the opinion of the governing board have the skills and experience needed to support the board with its governance functions. They are usually appointed for a term of 4 years.

Associate Members – These are not governors. They are people that have been invited to serve on the board as they have a specialist skills set or knowledge set. They have no voting rights.

One thing to note is that regardless of the category of governor that you are, the core function of governance is the same for everyone. All governors have a responsibility to ensure that the strategic

direction of the school is clear and that leaders are accountable for the performance and progress of the school.

In Academies, the total number of governors from different categories is identified in the 'Articles of Association'. Generally all are labelled academy local governors, although for Church school academies the 'Articles of Association' will state the number of foundation academy governors that are required.

# The Role of Foundation Governors

In Church schools, Governors are guardians of the vision, keeping it alive and ensuring that it is implemented. Governors are also responsible for ensuring that the school upholds its Trust Deed which sets out exactly what it means to be a Church school.

The expectation is that your Church school will seek to offer excellence in education and will above all be concerned to develop the whole human being in a place where the Christian faith is lived on a daily basis. As a foundation governor, you will be ensuring that this is happening. Foundation governors have a particular role in monitoring the Christian and spiritual aspects of the school. You must be familiar with the requirements of a SIAMS inspection and be aware of when you last inspection took place.

Foundation Governors should be familiar with the following important documents –

The Instrument of Governance – This is individual to each school and a copy should be available from your clerk. This is a legal document which sets out the composition of the governing board and other related matters. The clerk, Headteacher and Diocese will all have a copy which for Church schools should include an ethos statements.

Exactly how this is developed is different for each Church school but it often starts with set of 3 core Christian values that are used to underpin all the work of the school. These values not only enable children to be the best they can be academically but also support their wellbeing. Spiritual development will be carefully planned and delivered enabling all to become fully human. For some children they will be enabled to develop a personal relationship with God. Please see the SIAMS Inspection Schedule to learn how a distinctively Christian approach to education is assessed.

The Trust Deed - Trust deeds, created when a Church school is founded, is mainly concerned with the conveyance of a piece of land. It will list the Trustees who are usually the vicar and Churchwardens or the Diocese. Each Church school will have a trust deed which should also be on display somewhere in the school.

The Diocese recommends that all our Church School use the locally agreed Local Authority syllabus for RE.

Terms of Reference – Every Governing Board should have Terms of Reference, this is a document that sets out the role of the Full Governing Board. If your governing board has separate committees, then each committee will have its own Terms of Reference. (Your clerk should have a copy of these.) They should be reviewed annually.

Code of Conduct – Every governor is required to sign a code of conduct each year. The Code of Conduct sets out the expectations in terms of professionalism and behaviour for governors.

# What do Foundation Governors do in practice?

Foundation Governors are unique to schools that have a religious character, such as Church schools. The National Society stated in 1996 that foundation governors are there to 'explore with their partners on the governing board ways in which the Church's role in the school may be more fully and positively implemented'. (Green 2016:16)

All foundation governors have a particular purpose to safeguard the character of the school and ensure it is conducted in accordance with any founding documents.

Foundation governors should:

- Understand the distinctive nature and history of the Church of England
- Protect and develop the distinctive Christian character of the school
- Make sure that the school is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed
- Be a member of the governing body team and play a full and active part
- Liaise with the parish, PCC and incumbent in promoting links between church and school
- Initiate discussion on how the local church can support its school
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship on pupils and staff
- Monitor and evaluate the impact religious education has on the distinctive Christian character of the school and
  - in a Voluntary Aided School or Academy the quality of teaching and learning in religious education
- Ensure that the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education is informed of any important changes that occur at the school, for example, the resignation and appointment of a headteacher
- Play a full part in the selection of a new headteacher
- Support school leaders in preparing for and be part of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican/Methodist Schools (SIAMS)
- Be a member of the group that appraises the headteacher in the Performance Management process
- Be willing to attend governor training

As part of your role as a governor you will be involved in monitoring what happens in school. This might involve:

- Attending worship
- Sitting in on RE lessons
- Meeting pupils and talking to them about school
- Looking at books
- Looking at planning
- Reviewing progress and attainment data.

**This is not about making judgements on the performance of individual staff or pupils but does ensure you are well informed about the school.** You will be better placed to ask the right questions to support and challenge the leaders of the school and you will be more confident in taking far reaching strategic decisions.



# SIAMS

SIAMS is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, under section 48 of the 2005 Education Act. The purpose of a SIAMS inspection is to check that the school is fulfilling its trust deed and providing a distinctively Christian education. Church schools are usually inspected every 5 years (or 3 years if they are in the 'requires Improvement' category.) The inspector will observe an act of Collective Worship and RE lessons and meet with the Head teacher, Foundation Governors, RE coordinator and local clergy. They also interview a group of children and talk to parents.

SIAMS inspections look at the Christian distinctiveness of church schools, currently focusing on four questions:

- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective is the religious education?
- How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

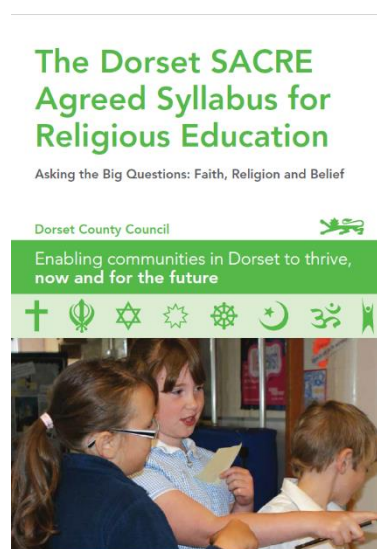
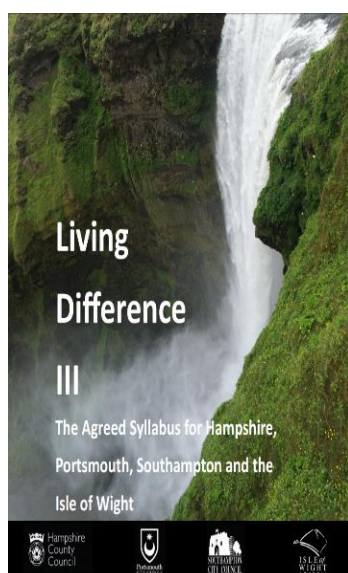
The [2013 SIAMS inspection schedule](#) can be downloaded from the Church of England Website.

There will be a new SIAMS framework from September 2018, which will link more closely to the Church of England Vision for Education. The diocese will provide training for schools and governors who are due to be inspected under this new schedule.

# Religious Education

Legally all children have to receive Religious Education (unless they are withdrawn by their parents) and in VC schools this has to be in line with an agreed syllabus. VA schools and Academy Trusts are free to choose their own syllabus, but the Diocese advises them to follow the locally agreed syllabus. Schools in Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight use [Living Difference 111](#) resource.

Dorset schools generally follow either the [Dorset SACRE Agreed Syllabus](#) or Living Difference syllabus.



Church of England schools are also encouraged to use the [Understanding Christianity](#) resource, which was commissioned by the church to promote religious literacy in schools. The materials explore core concepts such as Creation, Fall, Incarnation and Salvation. There is more information on their [website](#)

An agreed syllabus should reflect the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are mainly Christian, while taking into account the teachings and practices of the other main religions in the country. The agreed syllabus must not try to convert pupils or try to promote a particular religion or belief.

Governors and headteachers have a responsibility to ensure that RE is being taught and that the annual report to parents gives details of pupils' progress in RE. Foundation governors have a particular concern for RE, for example making sure it is well resourced; they may be asked to observe RE lessons and to work with the school's RE coordinator.



# Ex-Officio Foundation Governors

The ex-officio foundation governor is usually the incumbent of the parish in which the school is situated. This is written into the instrument of government as the “principal officiating minister in the parish”. The incumbent automatically becomes the ex-officio foundation governor when he/she is appointed to the parish. There is no ex-officio role in Academy Trusts unless the Articles of Association or local Governance determined by the Academy Trust specify an ex-officio role.

The Church school is part of the ex-officio’s parish responsibilities and within church schools there is an expectation that the incumbent will take a pastoral role for the care of staff, children, parents and fellow governors. It is also an expectation that a member of the parish clergy team will lead at least one collective worship in the school each week.

Church schools also visit the Church for worship on a half termly basis as well as at festivals and the start and end of term. Worship was seen as an essential element in the establishment of the Church school and the duties of the “parochial clergyman”.

## **Inability to fulfil the role**

Occasionally the incumbent decides they cannot be the ex-officio foundation governor. In that case the clerk should inform the Diocesan Governance Coordinator. The instrument of government makes provision for a replacement ex-officio foundation governor to be appointed by the Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry in which the school is situated.

The appointment is usually carried out by the Diocesan Director of Education on behalf of, and in consultation with, the Archdeacon. The person appointed could be the assistant clergy or team vicar, or a lay person. He/she will continue in office until a new incumbent is appointed, the incumbent decides to take up the office, or the appointment is withdrawn.

The foundation Governor occupying this position should keep the Diocesan Director of Education informed of any new developments in this area through the clerk.

There is no fixed term of office for an Ex-Officio. They remain in post for the duration of their role as incumbent of the parish.

For schools that serve more than 1 parish, they may have more than 1 ex-officio on their governing board.

# The Appointment Process

## Ex-Officios

Ex-Officio foundation governors have a position by nature of being the incumbent of the parish. There is an ex-officio acceptance form which must be completed by any person who will be taking up the ex-officio foundation governor role. Ex-officio Governors must have a DBS check carried out by the school which needs to be renewed every 4 years.

The ex-officio acceptance form must be returned to the governance coordinator at the address below.

## Other Foundation Governors

Foundation Governors are nominated by the parish. They must complete a nomination form which needs to be signed by the PCC and Vicar who confirm that they are happy with the nomination. A DBS and identify check must be carried out by the school and the form must be signed to say that the appropriate documents have been taken into school.

The nomination form must then be returned to the governance coordinator who will then arrange for the appointment to be approved by the Diocesan Board of Education. The term of office is usually 4 years.

[Ex-officio acceptance forms](#) and [Foundation Governor nomination forms](#) can be found on the diocese website.

Forms for appointing governors in Stand Alone Academy Trusts, Multi Academy Trusts and for P&W DAT schools can also be found on the [diocese website](#).

Forms can be sent electronically to: [Sharon.brueton@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sharon.brueton@portsmouth.anglican.org)

Or by post to:

Governance Coordinator  
Education Team  
Diocese of Portsmouth  
First Floor  
Peninsular House  
Wharf Road  
Portsmouth  
PO2 8HB

## Clerks

Governing board clerks are expected to keep an up to date list of governors showing their terms of office. The clerk is required to inform the governance coordinator when a foundation governor leaves office and to ensure that the appropriate forms are completed for new nominations.

If a foundation governor and PCC agree for the governor to do another term of office, then a re-appointment form must be completed and signed and a new DBS check must be carried out. The form must be sent to the governance coordinator so that the reappointment can be made.

Once the Diocesan Board of Education has confirmed the reappointment, a letter will be sent to the foundation governor and the clerk to confirm the appointment.

# DBS Checking

All governors are required to have an enhanced DBS check carried out by the school. Details will be held on the schools Single Central Register. Foundation Governors (including ex-officios) are required to have their DBS check renewed every 4 years. This is usually in conjunction with any renewal of terms of office.

Section 128 prohibition checks are required for all involved in the management (including governance) of an academy trust or MAT.

## Disqualifications

Several disqualifications criteria exist under the current legislation and prospective governors are asked to consider this before completing the nomination form.

Any governor whose circumstances change and becomes disqualified during their term of office, must notify the clerk in writing who will in turn inform the Diocesan Board of Education.

A governor may become disqualified following a prolonged period of absence from full governing board meetings. Where apologies are sent to the clerk prior to the meeting, the minutes must record whether the governing board consent to the absence, Meetings missed with the governing boards consent do not count for disqualification.

Absence from governing board meetings cannot be used to sanction an ex-officio governor.

Further Information on Disqualification of Governors in maintained schools can be found in the [Constitution of Governing Bodies](#) Guidance.

For Academies and Multi Academy Trusts, trustees and members of local governing committees will be disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as trustee or local governing committee member, on the following grounds:

- They are under the age of 18;
- They are currently a pupil at the academy;
- They have failed to attend meetings within a six month period without apologies being accepted by the trustees;
- They are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order ; interim bankruptcy restriction order; a debt relief restrictions order; an interim debt relief restrictions order; or they have been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been repossessed for the benefit of creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- They have been disqualified as a company director or failed to make a payment under a county court administration order;
- They have been disqualified as a charity trustee; found to be unsuitable by the Secretary of State; or ceases to be a trustee under any provision in the Companies Act 2006;
- They have been removed as a charity trustee on the ground of misconduct or mismanagement;
- They have been convicted of any criminal offence except for those 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, or those for which the maximum sentence is a fine or lesser sentence unless they have been convicted of an offence outlined in Section 178 of the Companies Act 2011;

- They have not provided an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to the chair; or where they have, the chair, chief executive officer or principal or Secretary of State determines that their unsuitability to work with children renders them disqualified;
- They become incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering his own affairs.

A disqualified person must give written notice of their disqualification to the clerk whether or not they are currently in office, or due to be appointed.

Unlike maintained schools, all categories of trustees in academies are subject to the same disqualifications as one another – there are no further disqualifications applied in the model articles with respect to parent or staff governors. Although, individual articles should be referred to.

# Removal of Foundation Governors

The appointing body (for Foundation Governors, the Diocesan Board of Education) is able to remove a foundation governor. This would happen only in exceptional circumstances and the Diocesan Director of Education would expect to be involved in the early stages in order to resolve a problem in whatever way would be appropriate.

If the governing board request the removal of a foundation governor, then the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education (through the Diocesan Director of Education) would expect the full governing board to have met to discuss the reasons for the proposed removal and to have passed a resolution, which must have been confirmed at a second meeting not less than 14 days later.

Both resolutions must appear as agenda items. Reasons for the proposed removal request must be clearly stated and the individual concerned given an opportunity to respond. All governors should be involved and a two thirds quorum is needed for the resolution to be carried.

The Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education would consider this request in writing and make a decision based on all the facts.

Where the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education considers a person unsuitable to continue his/her term of office as a foundation governor, then the board would obtain all the relevant facts from the governing board and the individual concerned, meet to discuss and consider these, and make a decision whether to remove the individual or not.

In both these situations, the board would inform the governing body and the individual concerned in writing of the decision. There is no right of appeal.

# Governor Training Requirements

January 2017 saw the launch of the [Competency Framework for Governance](#). This sets out the competencies needed for effective governance. It should be read alongside the [Governance Handbook](#) (and the [Academies Financial Handbook](#) for academies.) The framework is applicable to all governors and all governing boards. Governing boards need to consider the knowledge and skills outlined in the framework and what are most vital for their context.

The framework is made up of 16 competencies underpinned by a foundation of important principles and personal attributes. The competencies are grouped under 6 features of effective governance –

- Strategic Leadership
- Accountability
- People
- Structures
- Compliance
- Evaluation





The principles and Personal Attributes that individuals bring to a board are as important as the skills and knowledge. The Framework identifies that Governors should be:

**Committed** – Devoting time and energy to the role and want to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.

**Confident** – Independent mind, able to lead and contribute to difficult and challenging discussions, expressing opinion politely.

**Curious** - Having an enquiring mind and being prepared to question.

**Challenging** – Providing appropriate challenge, not taking information at face value.

**Collaborative** – Prepared to listen, work in partnership and build strong working relationships with others including executive leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils, the local community, employers and the diocese.

**Critical** – Understanding the value of critical friendship to offer both support and challenge.

**Creative** – Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open minded to problem solving.

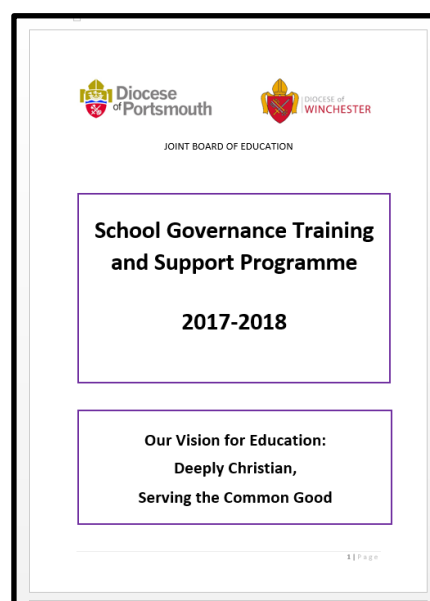
All those appointed and elected to the governing board should fulfil their duties in line with the 7 principles of public life. (The [Nolan Principles](#).)

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Governors are required to attend regular training in order to stay up to date with knowledge and skills to support them in their role.

It is advisable for all new governor's to attend some form of induction training if available from your local authority.

The Diocese also provide a range of training opportunities for foundation governors. Please see our 'School Governance Training and Support Programme' which is published at the start of each academic year for details of training opportunities.



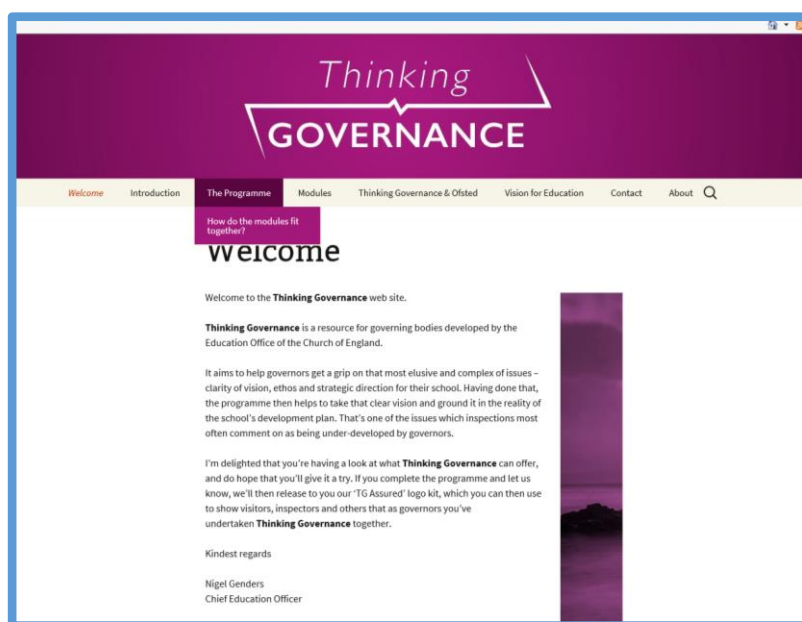
# Thinking Governance

[Thinking Governance](#) is a resource for governing bodies developed by the Education Office of the Church of England.

It aims to help governors get a grip on that most elusive and complex of issues – clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for their school. Having done that, the programme then helps to take that clear vision and ground it in the reality of the school’s development plan. That’s one of the issues which inspections most often comment on as being under-developed by governors.

The programme contains four modules that governors can complete .

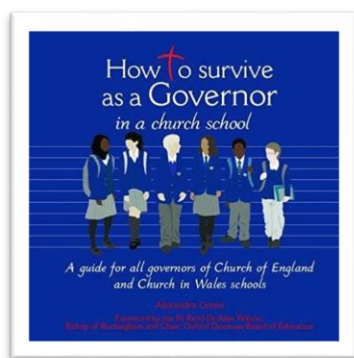
- Module 1 – The Bigger Picture
- Module 2 – The Smell of the School
- Module 3 – The Rubber hits the road
- Module 4 – Indicators of change



# Further Information

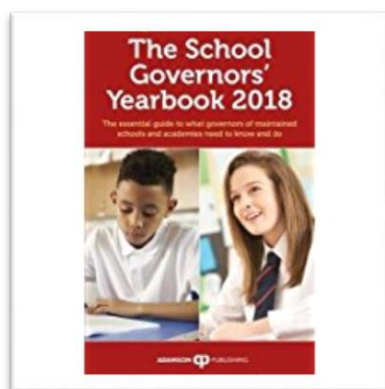
- The Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan websites Education sections, have a section on governance where forms and additional information can be found.
  - [Portsmouth Website](#)
  - [Winchester Website](#)
  - [Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust](#)
- The [Church of England](#) has a section devoted to Church Schools
- [Hampshire Governor Services](#) – This is a subscription service. If your school is a member then you can receive a log in for this from your clerk. Non Hampshire Schools can also join this service.
- [Governors for Schools](#) – A website that can help with recruiting new school governors.
- [Inspiring Governance](#) – A school governor recruitment site.
- [National Governor Association \(NGA\)](#)
  - This website has a wealth of information to support governance. Some areas are accessible only if your governing board is a member of NGA, however there are areas of the website that can be accessed for free.

# Further Reading



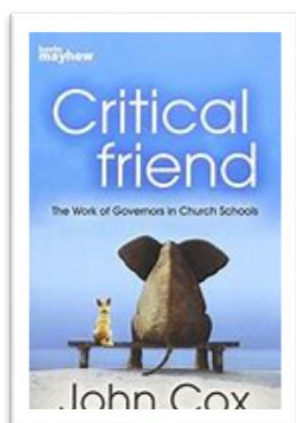
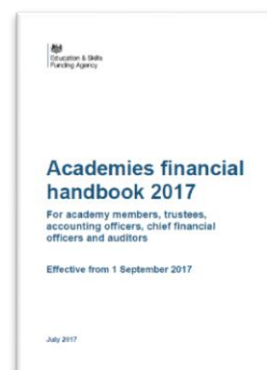
A useful book for both new and existing governors in a church school.

Practical details on the tasks involved in church school governance. A useful guide for new governors.



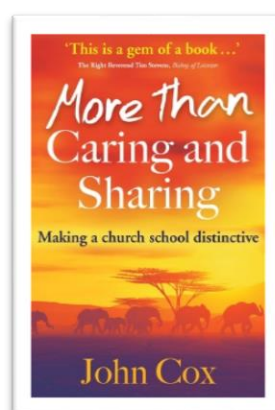
Essential guide to what governors of maintained schools and academies need to know and do.

The [Academies Financial Handbook](#) – essential for all academy trustees, directors and local governors. Available on the DfE website.



A useful guide for governors in a church school.

A useful read about being a church school.



# The Diocesan Education Team

## Diocesan Director of Education



### **Jeff Williams**

Jeff leads the Education team and oversees all of its work with schools, academies and Further & Higher education. He works alongside and advises the Bishop of Winchester and the Bishop of Portsmouth, and the Diocesan Board of Education in the formation of strategy and all aspects of education policy. Jeff represents the Diocese at regional and national level in any aspect of education. He represents the Diocese at our Anglican Foundation University in Winchester on its Foundation Committee and is a Trustee at the University's Multi Academies trust.

## Deputy Diocesan Director of Education



### **Rob Sanders**

Rob's key responsibilities include deputising for and representing the Director at a regional and local level, and managing the day to day organisation and related work of the office-based Education Team. He supports the Director in monitoring and ensuring efficiency across the team's work and with advising on diocesan vision and strategy for education. Rob takes an active role in supporting and promoting a distinctively Christian, community focused vision for education that serves The Common Good.

## Executive PA to Jeff Williams



### **Julie Stirling**

Julie provides all aspects of administrative support to the Director of Education, manages his diary and is clerk to the Board of Education and all sub-committees of the Board and the Diocesan Trust.

## **Schools Advisers**

### **Sue Bowen and Richard Wharton**

The Schools advisers lead on support for schools and parishes on the development of Church school distinctiveness and values, collective worship, spirituality, RE, SIAMS and school standards. They offer training for Governors on headteacher appointments and support schools in the process, and supports schools on general pastoral issues.



## **RE and SIAMS Consultant**

### **Jane Kelly**

Jane takes the lead on all aspects of Religious Education (RE) and the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS), providing personal and professional support and challenge to schools and academies (particularly senior leaders and governors).

## **Governance Coordinator**



### **Sharon Brueton**

Sharon looks after all areas to do with School Governance and admissions. Her role includes supporting schools with vacancies providing and delivering effective training for Foundation Governors and working closely with schools to develop their Governance board and ensure that it is supporting the vision and ethos suggested by the church. Sharon also works with the various local authorities and schools to support the schools admissions process.

## **School Buildings Officers**

### **Barbara Millett and Tracy Dawkins**

The school buildings officers support Voluntary Aided schools in relation to building issues and government-funded building projects. The School Buildings officers are also central to advising on the building of new Church Schools.



## **School Buildings Assistant**



**Natalia Papuga**

Natalia provides support to the School Buildings Officers and projects.

## **Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer for the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust**



**Amanda Johnston**

Amanda manages the strategic operations of the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust (P&WDAT) in achieving their objectives and to facilitate local networks of excellence.

This work includes: working directly with academies and others to recommend and/or commission academy-specific interventions, providing aspects of school improvement support, the full recruitment process for appointing new Principals, pastoral support, affirmation and 'on-the-spot' advice or referral as appropriate, negotiating Service Level Agreements, the creation of all strategic plans, policies and the overall co-ordination of the academies programme for both dioceses

## **Academies Finance Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust**



**Lynne Govus**

Lynne coordinates all central financial aspects for the Trust's academies.

This includes: overseeing a programme of external audit and completion of statutory accounts; year-end files are collated & submitted to auditors; submitting returns to the numerous statutory bodies. Lynne supports academies in strategic financial planning; in making capital & other bids; and provides reports to the Trust Directors.

## **Academies Finance Assistant**

### **Neil Carroll**

Neil supports the Academies Finance Manager with the central financial aspects of the PWDAT's work with academies. This includes: closure of month end accounts and supporting production of Management accounts, collation of VAT returns. Assisting with annual budget process and submitting returns to DfE. Undertaking supplier payments, maintaining accounting records, including payroll journals, submissions to TPS, and supporting academies staff on finance related matters.

# Contact Details

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PO2 8HB

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Telephone – 02392 899651  
Mobile – 07725 278104

Portsmouth Website – [www.portsmouth.anglican.org](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org)  
Winchester Website – [www.winchester.anglican.org](http://www.winchester.anglican.org)  
P&WDAT Website – [Home | Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust](#)

(Updated – January 2018)