

Peterborough Diocese Board of Education

Foundation Governor role and responsibilities in Church Schools

Foundation governors in church schools in the diocese are, in the main, appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education. In a small number of schools that are held on external trusts these individual trusts appoint a proportion of the foundation governors. This applies to the following schools:

The Kings School, Peterborough
All Saints Primary School, Northampton
Clipston Primary School
Easton Garford Primary School
Harpole Primary School
Mears Ashby Primary School

However, whether foundation governors are representing the DBE or the external foundation their roles and responsibilities are the same. These responsibilities relate to ensuring that the individual school's Trust Deed, through the School's Instrument of Government, is honoured in the provision of education offered to the pupils in their care.

The school asset, site and buildings

The school buildings, entrance and hard standing areas of all church schools are the property of the trust. In some cases the trust also owns other land associated with the school, sometimes even the playing fields but this is usually owned by the Local Authority. *The foundation governors' responsibility is to ensure that the school does not undertake any activity that could reduce the capital value of this asset. The foundation governor needs to ensure that the building is appropriately maintained, this could mean repairing the roof rather than undertaking redecoration.*

The school curriculum

The school asset was given for the provision of a church school. *This requires the foundation governors to provide a church school environment and ensures that the curriculum on offer provides an education that includes high quality Religious Education and a daily act of Christian worship in accordance with the Church of England. The provision in a church school is tested through the denominational inspection (Section 48).*

The school governance

The school Instrument of Government provides the details of the membership of the governing body. It also includes an ethos statement that enshrines the purpose of the school in accordance with the Trust Deed. *In order to comply with the Trust Deed the outcomes from the inspection need to be satisfactory or better. The Inspections will provide key issues for development. It is a responsibility of the foundation governors to ensure that these key issues are appropriately addressed before a subsequent inspection.*

It is expected that foundation governors will work co-operatively with other school governors and explain the responsibilities of the governing body of a church school in regard to the Trust Deed.