

All Saints Church of England Primary Federation, Hessle

The Role of the Foundation Governor

Outline of Role

Foundation Governors sit on the Local Governing Board of a Church of England Academy within Ebor Multi- Academy Trust. They, along with the other local governors, have a responsibility in respect of All Saints federation only, under the powers delegated to the Local Governing Committee by the Board of Trustees

Ethos statement for Church of England Schools “Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve 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.”

Foundation Governors have a special role in, and responsibility for, ensuring that the Christian character of the school is secured, preserved and developed and that the school is run in accordance with any trust deed relating to the school.

At the same time, Foundation Governors have a responsibility to their school, their pupils and their communities to support the school to be effective in terms of achieving and exceeding the standards expected by government. Foundation Governors, who will take on the full responsibilities of being a school Governor, will need to have the skills and otherwise be in a position to contribute appropriately to the Governing Body and the effective governance of the school.

The Government provides guidance on the role of a Governor in its “Governor’s Handbook” (the latest version of which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook--3>). The Handbook identifies the following three core strategic functions of Governing Bodies:

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

Preamble

Church schools should be distinctive in their Collective Worship and Religious Education offering, their ethos, and the ways in which their distinctively Christian values are worked in the daily life of the school. Some of the ways in which this might be seen might include:

- A core Christian vision with Christian values embedded across the school;
- A place of distinctive excellence, where all are valued as individuals and as God’s children;
- A safe place where there is no ideological pressure and yet Christian inferences are built into the ethos and the teaching;
- Understanding of, and sensitivity towards, those of other faiths and those of no faith;
- Effective links with the local Church, Diocese and local community;
- A deliberate attempt to link the concerns of Christ’s Gospel with the life of the school;
- Visible signs and symbols of its Christian foundation around the school;
- An inclusive place where selfless care and Christian love is apparent to all;
- A place where learning and the acquiring of skills are seen as a part of the revelation of God and His continuous involvement in His creation;
- Distinctively Anglican Collective Worship that develops a true sense of awe and wonder, follows the liturgical year, and celebrates with the parish significant Christian festivals and feast days;
- High quality Religious Education that is seen as an important part of the curriculum and a core subject;
- A commitment to developing the spiritual dimension both in the formal and the hidden curriculum;
- A place that takes the views of all the members of its community seriously and where the voice of the weakest is heard.

The designated governor shall, in no particular priority order:

- At all times comply with the Governor Code of Conduct
- At all times comply with all governor protocols and maintain confidentiality
- Have equal rights with all other governors
- Not participate in discussions where they have a personal interest
- Feel free to express their own views without fear or favour
- Attend governor training sessions as required
- Withdraw from any discussion where there is a perceived conflict of interest if directed by the Chair to do so

In order to help achieve the balance between operational responsibility and the role as a governor the foundation governor should:

- Never press their own personal agenda at the expense of others
- Always be clear about what information can be reported back to others
- Never promise to solve a problem on their own
- Never bring individual issues to a meeting without having followed agreed procedures
- Abide by protocols for raising agenda items and “any other business”
- Maintain awareness of Diocese views and concerns
- Play an active part in meetings and all aspects of governance

Approved by the governing body on (date).....

Signed.....Chair of Governors