



Department for Education

ROLE OF FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Bishop by the Episcopal Vicar for Education and form the majority of the governing body. They have a legal duty to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with its Trust Deed. Their responsibility is not only to consider the interests of their individual school or college but also the interests of other schools and colleges and Catholic education in general across the Diocese.

Nominees would not be expected to have a direct knowledge of current education law, of school organisation or governance but should be willing to learn and dedicate reasonable time to their responsibilities. They would be expected to have a genuine commitment to the educational, personal and spiritual development of students and in particular to the wellbeing of the school community as a whole, and to attend all relevant Diocesan training. Supportive packs and appropriate training opportunities will be made available.

Appointment of Foundation Governors

- Appointments are normally made for a four-year term of office. Each period is a self-contained term of office and no assumption should be made about further periods of appointment.
- At least one school term before the conclusion of a term of office or on the resignation of a governor, the clerk to the governing body should alert the chair of governors to the need to consider nominations. In the latter case, the chair will consult with the local clergy about such nominations before forwarding them to the Diocese.
- In all cases, nominations **must** be made on the new Diocesan form (copy attached) which supercedes all earlier forms and forwarded to Angela Williams at the Diocese of Salford, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP.

The Diocese will forward written confirmation of appointment to the individual newly-appointed governor. Copies of the appointment will also be sent to the Chair of Governors and the Local Authority.

General Criteria

- To become a foundation governor a person must be a practising Catholic;
- To become a foundation governor a person must not be disqualified from becoming a governor in accordance with the current School Government Regulations, or the Charities Acts or the Criminal Justice and Court Services Acts.

Specific Criteria

Good practice and the avoidance of conflicts of interest would also dictate the following:

In respect of the school or college for which a person is to be a foundation governor he or she should not be:

- The spouse, parent, child or sibling of any member of the school or college staff, whether teaching or support and in the employment of the governing body;
- Similarly related to any other governor whether elected or appointed of the school or college;
- Employed at the school or college, whether in a teaching or support capacity other than on a casual and limited hours basis;
- A former member of the School Leadership Team, unless a period of no less than 3 years has expired since leaving the school.

Whilst it remains the norm for the nomination of a parish priest to be endorsed by the Bishop of Salford, there may be occasions on which, whether for the good of the school or for broader considerations, a nomination may not be accepted and an alternative appointment approved. In such, admittedly rare circumstances, it may also not always be possible to reveal the reasons for which a nomination is declined.