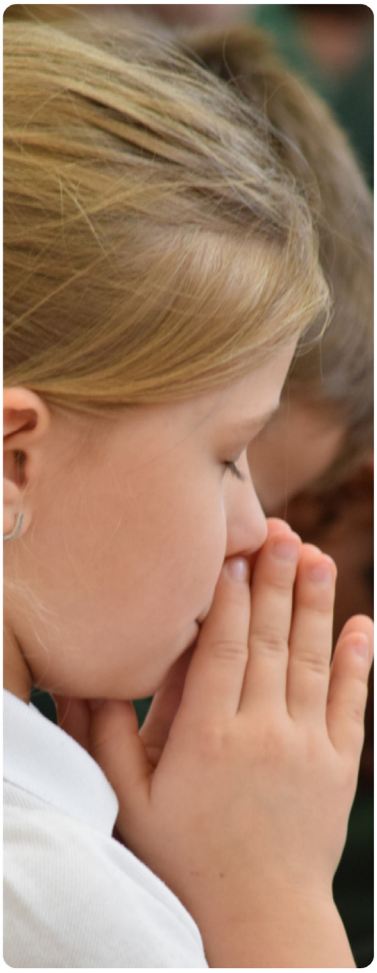
Could YOU serve as a Foundation Governor?



CALLED TO BE *a people of*

HOPE

If you:

- *care about children*
- *believe in Catholic education*
- *want to transform lives*

then our Catholic schools need **YOU**

"speak, for your servant is listening"
Then he said to his disciples "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field".

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Why am I needed?

Foundation governors have an important part to play in ensuring the Catholic character of our schools and in building the community of Catholic schools throughout the diocese. Without them our schools are in jeopardy of losing their distinctiveness which will have a significant impact on the future lives of our children.

What is a foundation governor?

Foundation governors are volunteers who serve as the Bishop's representative to assist in leading our Catholic schools. They work alongside other governors to form a governing body or board of directors, who are responsible for the strategic direction of the school.
They are involved in decisions about all aspects of the school – such as buildings and budgets, monitoring standards and the Catholic ethos. Foundation Governors have specific responsibility for admissions to the school, the employment of staff, Religious Education, Relationship Education and the prayer life of the school.
The governors help determine the future for pupils attending our schools.
The work of the Governing Body is facilitated by a Clerk and training and support for governors is provided by the Diocesan Department for Schools and Colleges and the Local Authority.

What qualities do I need to become a foundation governor?

You should be a practising Catholic. Other important qualities for being a foundation governor are a belief in the value of Catholic education, enthusiasm, and commitment.

You do not need teaching experience and it is useful to bring skills from all areas of your life; such as financial, human resources, buildings, health and safety, safeguarding, parish work and community work.

What will I be asked to do as a foundation governor?

~ to attend and contribute to meetings of the full governing body (usually between 3 and 6 per year) and at least one of its sub-committees (approximately a further 3 per year).

~ to take an interest in the life of the school/college, to attend some of the public events during the academic year and to see something of the school/college at work (often by being associated with a particular subject area).

~ to attend interviews associated with staff appointments or serve on special panels associated with admissions, disciplinary or employment matters.

~ to fully support all agreed policies and monitor their implementation

~ to keep informed about policies which the school has devised in order to meet the statutory requirements as outlined in the Governor's Handbook. This involves some reading and 'homework' to keep up to date with requirements, and ensuring that policies are regularly updated

~ to take part in the visiting programme arranged for governors to come into school

~ to undertake governor training with the Diocese and others as appropriate

~ to maintain the confidentiality of governors' meetings.

How long will I be asked to serve as a foundation governor?

Governors are appointed for a 4 year term of office, after which they can be reappointed or pass the role on to someone else. You can of course resign at any time during your term should you wish to do so.

Is there any remuneration for the role of foundation governor?

There is no remuneration for being a governor, though out of pocket expenses may be claimed for attendance at meetings and for other business as a governor.

How old do you have to be to serve as a foundation governor?

You have to be over the age of 18.

How do I become a school governor?

If you're interested in serving as a foundation governor you will find a nomination form on our website:
www.schools.cliftondiocese.com

If you have any questions or would like more information about the role of the foundation governor please contact us at the Diocesan office:

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