

Archdiocese of Liverpool

Becoming a Foundation Governor

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can become a Foundation Governor?

Any practising Catholic over the age of 18 can become a Foundation Governor.

How do I apply to become a Foundation Governor?

Historically, Foundation Governor appointments in primary schools have been made following nomination of the parish priest and in secondary schools by nomination of the chair of the governing body in consultation with the dean/parish priest. This will continue in future but recruitment will not be restricted only to those so nominated. The opportunity to serve as a Foundation Governor, whether approached individually or self motivated to apply, exists and all potential applicants are required to complete an application form. The form and further information on the application process is available on the Archdiocese website via the following link: <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Foundation-Governors>

How do I prove I'm a practising Catholic?

You will, as part of the application process, need to provide contact details for the Priest of the parish or chaplaincy in which you regularly worship in order that the Episcopal Vicar may take up a reference verifying your Catholic practice.

What is the role of the Governing Body?

A governing board has three core functions for its school, as set out in the 2014 Department for Education's Governors' Handbook:

- setting the strategic direction
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school
- ensuring financial health, probity and value for money

What is the role of a Foundation Governor?

- Know and implement the Bishop's policies on education, including Religious education
- Understand and promote the distinctive nature of Catholic education.
- Act for the good of Catholic education as a whole within the archdiocese and secure the long term future of Catholic education.

What is the time commitment?

The average Foundation Governor role will attend four full governor meetings per year and serve on at least one committee. You will also be encouraged to attend free training sessions.

What are safeguarding checks?

As a requirement of the appointment process, all governors, regardless of category, will be required to consent to the carrying out of any appropriate checks, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks (previously Criminal Records Bureau Checks), in respect of eligibility/suitability to be appointed as a school governor.

Is training and support available for Foundation Governors?

The Archdiocese delivers a variety of training courses for Governors at Catholic schools. Information on forthcoming courses, along with a booking form, is available on our website at <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Governor-Training>