

St. Catherine's C of E Primary School, Hoddesdon.

Foundation Governor vacancies

There is currently one vacancy for a foundation governor on the St. Catherine's Board of Governors. The vacancy is for the ex-officio position of Vicar at St. Catherine and St. Paul's Church. This vacancy will be managed by the Diocese of St. Albans and the St. Catherine and St. Paul's PCC. If either of the other foundation governor positions become vacant and you would be interested in applying, these are the things you need to know: -

All school governors contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by: -

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to being responsible for the overseeing the School's vision, accountability and financial performance, the governing board appreciates the need to demonstrate diversity and inclusivity in its own membership, and to scrutinise its own composition and operations from an equality perspective. The need for the board to reflect the community which it serves is acknowledged, together with the benefits that such diversity brings in leading to a more robust, more informed and ultimately more effective governing board.

There are three foundation governors on the St. Catherine's School Governing Board. The first is the Vicar of St. Catherine & St. Paul's Church, which is an ex-officio position. The second is a Parochial Church Council (PCC) representative and is appointed by the St. Catherine & St. Paul's PCC. The third is a Diocesan Board of Education representative and is appointed by the St. Alban's Board of Education. Apart from the responsibilities attributed to all governors (see above) foundation governors also have a remit as representatives of the founding church and of the trustees. They have a responsibility to ensure that:

- the guiding principles of the founding church are incorporated into all aspects of the governance of the school
- the terms of the trust deed governing the school are adhered to.

As a foundation governor, you act in the best interests of the school, Church and wider community and cannot be mandated to take a particular stance on issues. As an effective foundation governor, you:

- add the extra dimension of accountability in relation to the foundation of the school, the trust deed and the ethos statement.

- support the aims of your school;
- visit and get to know your school;
- take on a 'link-governor' role where you work closely with a member of school staff to focus on a particular curriculum area or aspect of school management (e.g. Numeracy, Literacy, Safeguarding, SEND, Finance, SIAMS)
- work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children;
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand;
- take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training;
- attend full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time;
- read briefings and newsletters for governors;
- be loyal to the decisions made by the governing board;
- respect the confidentiality of governing board affairs;
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial;
- have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

As a foundation governor you will be expected to take on some specific responsibilities and commit allocated time for meetings on the following basis:

- Attend 4 Full Governing Board Meetings (FGB) each year; one meeting per term (including an additional, Budget meeting, in the summer term). Meetings will be 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours in length.
- Join the Resources Committee or School Improvement Committee. These meet once each term for 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Take on a Link Governor role. Link governors meet with school staff, at least once per term, to monitor an aspect of the curriculum or school management.

If you are interested in becoming a foundation governor at St. Catherine's School you can find out more by contacting the

Vicar via vicar@hoddsonparishchurch.com or

The Headteacher/Chair of Governors via admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk

Regards

P. Falconbridge
Chair of the Governing Board.

