

## Foundation Governor Factsheet

Q: Who can become a Foundation Governor?

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

Q: What do Foundation Governors do?

A: To be a Foundation Governor is to accept a crucial ministry in the Church. You are charged not only with the good of a particular school but with the good of the whole educational mission of our local church of Northampton. Through his Foundation Governors the Bishop discharges his responsibility to ensure that:

- Appointments to reserved posts are in complete accordance with diocesan policy
- All appointments of staff support both the Catholic nature of the school and the educational and pastoral requirements for each post
- A just admissions policy is framed, consonant with the Catholic character of the school and the needs of our children
- The curriculum is rooted in a religious understanding of life so that religious education has first place in the curriculum and embraces and enlivens every other subject
- The property of the Trustee is cared for and used for its proper purposes
- Diocesan guidance is sought wherever appropriate.

Foundation Governors have the task of preserving and developing the Catholic ethos of our schools and their partnership with the wider community. It is an excellent example of that vision of collaborative ministry given us in the teachings of the Church.

Q: How do I prove I'm a practising Catholic?

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

A practising Catholic is defined as someone who keeps the precepts of the Church, as summarised in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Q: I am not a practising Catholic but I would like to become a governor. What do I do?

A: If you are not a practising Catholic but are interested in becoming a governor at a Catholic school, you are strongly encouraged to contact Debbie Main, Schools Officer  
[main@nores.org.uk](mailto:main@nores.org.uk)

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: The average Foundation Governor role will take up about 10-12 hours per month. This includes the minimum requirement of attending three full governor meetings per year and serving on at least one committee. You will also be encouraged to attend free training sessions.

Q: What are safeguarding checks?

A: 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.

Q: What is the appointment process?

A: Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop to preserve and develop the religious character of the school and to secure compliance with the trust deed.

When the applicant has completed the application form, declaration of interest and CES Skills Audit, s/he must submit the forms to the priest of the church where s/he worships regularly.

The parish priest will complete his reference and then send the forms directly to NORES for consideration at the next meeting of the Governors' Court.

Governors Court meets regularly to consider all prospective Foundation Governor applications. It is important that all the forms, including the CES Skills Audit are completed so that an informed decision can be made.

Terms of office are four years from the date of appointment. Applicants will be informed of the Court's decision in writing; however reasons are not given if an application is declined.

Application paperwork is available to download from our website: [www.nores.org.uk](http://www.nores.org.uk) or from:

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If you have any questions regarding governance in Catholic schools, please contact Debbie on 01582 723312

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