**THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION GOVERNORS AT CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS** **AND ACADEMIES IN THE DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**

1. **Categories**

There are four distinct categories of Foundation Governors who serve on the governing bodies of Church of England voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools:

a Ex-Officio: The Vicar or Rector of the parish within which the school is situated.

b Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education

c Foundation Governors nominated by the relevant Parochial Church Council.

d Foundation governors appointed to Academy Trusts will either be referred to as Governors or Directors depending on the Academies Articles of Association.

Academy Members or Trustees form part of an academies Trust. These can be independent or also members of the Governing Body at the academy.

1. **Criteria for Appointment**

Foundation Governors are appointed in accordance with the school’s Instrument of Government or the Academies Articles of Association. In making an appointment, due regard will be taken of the following criteria:

a An individual who is a practising Christian and who is usually a communicant member of the Church of England or another Church in communion with the See of Canterbury.

b An individual who is a member of another Church which is itself a full member of Churches Together in England and Wales.

c A person who is not a member of any church but is sympathetic to the Church of England and can in the opinion of the Governing Body and after consulting the Diocesan Board of Education Officers;

1. demonstrate an understanding of the importance of upholding the Christian character of the school demonstrate the skills needed to understand and develop distinctive vision,
2. monitor their effectiveness in the school’s individual context,
3. know how the performance of the school’s approach to its distinctiveness will be assessed by external bodies,
4. and contribute actively to the Section 48 inspection process.

Please note that members of staff cannot be a Foundation Governor at the school in which they work. They are however very welcome to support a different school as a Foundation Governor.

1. **Responsibilities**

a As with all Governors, a Foundation Governor must be committed to upholding the long term interests of the school/academy they are appointed to serve, demonstrating a practical concern for the wellbeing of all staff and children and a commitment to working in partnership with parents.

b A Foundation Governor must be willing to exercise the following particular responsibilities of Foundation Governors:

1. To uphold the distinctive Christian foundation of the school, in particular ensuring that the worship offered is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England, that RE in Aided Schools/Academies who were formerly Aided is also consistent with those beliefs and practices, and that denominational education is provided for those children in Controlled Schools/Academies who were formerly controlled whose parents request it.
2. To ensure that the denominational education provided in accordance with the trust deed of the school, the school is inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Education (Inspection of Schools) Act 1996.
3. To support the development of the School’s vision, ensure that these are distinctively Christian and monitor how they affect day to day school life.
4. To safeguard the interests of the Site Trustees with regard to the property and its use
5. A Foundation Governor nominated by a Parochial Church Council is responsible for reporting regularly to the relevant PCC on the activities of the school.
6. A Foundation Governor must ensure that the Diocesan Board of Education is consulted in such matters as are required by law.

4. **Diocesan Policy on appointing Parents to Foundation Governor posts**

The Diocese affirms in line with best practice that our strong preference is to fill Foundation posts with non-parents. However, given the small population of rural parishes, if the only candidates who meet the Foundation criteria and are parents, we would not oppose an appointment.