



Why are Foundation Governors in the majority on the Governing Body of a Catholic School?

Foundation Governors are in the majority in order to ensure that the distinctive Catholic nature of the school is preserved and developed and to ensure compliance with the Trust Deed. Foundation Governors must be baptised, practising Catholics.

I'm not a practising Catholic. Can I still be a governor in a Catholic School?

Yes! Whilst you cannot serve as a Foundation Governor, you may be a Parent Governor, or Local Authority Governor, or could be appointed in the role of Co-opted Governor. All these governors are appointed through the school, not by the Diocese.



What can I expect?

Governors need to be able to commit interest, enthusiasm and time to the tasks that being a governor brings. You will find that the role of a Foundation Governor brings personal reward and satisfaction, although it does mean that you must be prepared to give some time to the work.



Further details may be obtained from the Education Service

E: gill.sainog@abdiocese.org.uk
T: 01293 511130

Diocesan Education Service
4 Southgate Drive
Crawley
RH10 6RP

www.abdiocese.org.uk

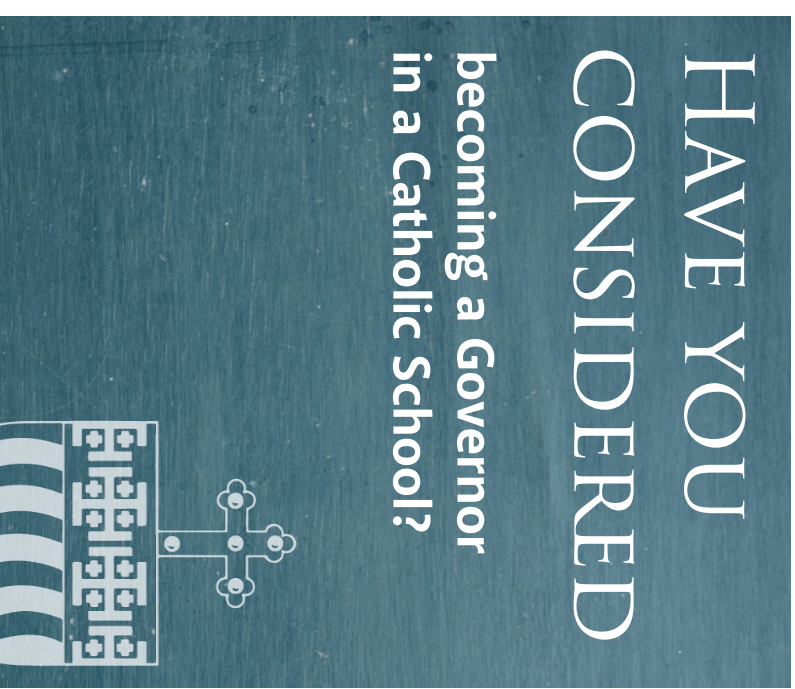
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What does the Diocese look like?

The Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton extends across four Local Authorities: Brighton & Hove; East Sussex; West Sussex and most of Surrey. The Diocese encompasses rural villages; coastal towns; urban cities; and everything in between. Our schools are located throughout the Diocese, from Englefield Green in north-west Surrey down to Chichester in West Sussex; across to Hastings in East Sussex, and up to Caterham in the east of Surrey.

SUSSEX



SURREY



How many schools are there?

There are 80 Catholic schools in the Diocese, comprising of 11 Secondary, 53 Primary, 15 Independent and 1 specialist school. There are 2 Catholic Education Trusts (CETs), Xavier in Surrey and Bosco in East and West Sussex. Some of our schools are academy schools within these two trusts.



What does it mean to be a school governor?

Foundation Governors agree

- to ensure that your school is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed,
- to know and implement the Bishop's policies on education, and
- to understand and promote the distinctive nature of Catholic education.

They are therefore responsible for understanding, maintaining and developing **the distinctive nature of the Catholic school** within the Church's mission of education and in awareness of the contribution the Church makes to society through this mission.

All governors are able to contribute their rich experience, values and views to enhance and **promote the school's ethos and vision**. Real and exciting opportunities exist for regular discussion and debate across numerous aspects of school life and provision.

Being a governor affords you the opportunity of collaborating with a wide range of colleagues to ensure all children and young people receive enjoyable and developmental learning experiences **within a Christ-centred environment**. The governing body plays a key strategic role in the direction of and accountability for the school, but is also part of a network of relationships which includes children and young people, parents, staff, priests, religious, the Diocese, Local Authority, DfE, and the wider community.

How does the Diocesan Education Service support schools?

In the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, the Education Service is responsible for offering training as well as support and care to Catholic Schools in the Diocese in both the maintained and independent sectors. The Education Service also liaises with Local Authorities throughout the Diocese and the Catholic Education Service based in London.



Types of Governor

Foundation Governors

Foundation Governors in voluntary aided and Academy Catholic schools are appointed by the Bishop as his representatives on the Governing Body.

They ensure that the school preserves its particular religious character and that it is conducted in accordance with the terms of the school's trust deed. Foundation Governors are appointed for a term of four years.

Other Governor categories:

- Parent Governors
- Staff Governors
- Local Authority Governors
- Co-opted Governors
- A Headteacher Governor