

Interested in becoming a Foundation Governor?

Our Blessed Saints Federation has a vacancy on the Governing Board for a Foundation Governor. If you are interested in making a real difference to young people, giving something back to your local community and using and developing your skills to help govern SS Peter & Paul and St Luke's Catholic Primary Schools then please email the Chair of Governors: PaulineHeffernan4@taw.org.uk to find out more.

To serve as a Foundation Governor you must be a practicing Catholic: able to obtain a Priest's reference to confirm you attend Mass regularly. Such postholders are formally appointed by the Bishop of Shrewsbury to ensure the preservation and development of the school's Catholic character.

Why volunteer to be a school governor?

School governors make a valuable contribution to children's education, opportunities and futures. Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role.

All Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to be effective. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management – which includes the governing board.

Who sits on the Governing Board?

Our Blessed Saints is the Federated Governing Board for both schools. Members include Foundation governors, locally appointed governors, staff governors, the Headteacher/Acting Headteachers, co-opted governors and parent governors.

What do governors do?

The Governing Board provides strategic leadership and accountability in schools. It has three key functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff

The governing board must also ensure that decisions take into account the views and experiences of stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff and the community).

Although there are different types of governors (e.g. Foundation v Parent), all governors have the same overall roles and responsibilities once part of the Governing Board.

What is the time commitment?

Full Governing Board Meetings take place twice a term. (These are usually at 4pm and take place at one of the schools.) Governors are required to read papers in advance and undertake some visits to the schools each year. Depending on the skills, interests and availability of individual governors they may also sit on additional sub committees.

Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid. Like magistrates or members of a jury, school governors however have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties, although this may be unpaid. Your company's HR department will be able to tell you about its policy.

What are the requirements to be a Governor?

Governors must be aged 18 or over and willing to undergo a full DBS check. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. You will be provided with training to help you learn about education and the role of a governor.

Governors should demonstrate the following attributes and behaviours - be committed to the role, be confident (including the ability to lead and contribute to courageous conversations), be curious, provide appropriate challenge to the status quo, be collaborative, be critical (in order to improve their own work and that of the board); and creative (to challenge conventional wisdom) and be open minded..