York Diocesan Board of Education (YDBE)



Introductory guidance - maintained schools foundation governor appointment process

The YDBE's vision for its schools is one of flourishing Church school communities, committed to providing education of the highest quality that is deeply Christian and seeks to serve the common good for their own locality. The role of foundation governor is a key role in supporting the flourishing of a Church of England school. As well as having the same strategic role as any governor, foundation governors have a special role in, and responsibility for, ensuring that the Christian Character of the school(s) they are responsible for is secured, preserved and developed. Further guidance on the role of a foundation governor can be found here.

All appointments of foundation governors in maintained schools must be made in accordance with the school's Instrument of Government and the relevant YDBE process. Different types of appointment require different processes. A summary of the different types of appointment and links to the relevant process are found below. Further guidance in relation to appointments, including who can be a foundation governor and how they might be sourced, can be found <a href="https://example.com/here/beauty-fig-align: relation-follow-fig-align: relation-fig-align: relation-follow-fig-align: relation-fig-align: relation-follow-fig-align: relation-fig-align: re

YDBE appointed foundation governors

The YDBE appoints most foundation governors in Church of England schools, generally following consultation with the local Parochial Church Council (PCC) or other (generally Church linked) individuals/bodies.

Whatever the formal appointment mechanism, individuals to serve as foundation governors are almost invariably identified by the PCC/other church body and school, working in partnership and drawing on their local knowledge.¹

The process for appointment of YDBE appointed foundation governors can be found here.

We ask schools to co-ordinate the application process.

Maintained schools: Diocesan Board of Education foundation appointments

DBE triggers process

School and Church to work together to identify suitable candidates.

School to co-ordinate with PCC/any other individuals/bodies named on Instrument of Government.

School returns form to DBE

If approved, DBE makes (conditional) appointment

School confirms appointment once checks complete

Ex officio foundation governors

On almost every governing body in a maintained school there will be an "ex officio" foundation governor position. This will often be taken up by "the principal officiating minister" of the parish linked to the school (usually the vicar).

Whilst this is reflected in the Instrument of Government as an ex officio role, there are certain matters of process to be attended to for the appointment to be confirmed. The process for appointment of ex officio foundation governors can be found here.

For a number of reasons, not all those who are eligible to do so take up the ex officio foundation governor role, and sometimes the principal officiating minister position is vacant (i.e. during an interregnum in the parish). In such cases, a "temporary ex officio foundation governor" will be appointed to serve as a substitute for the principal officiating minister in fulfilling this role (see below).

¹ The YDBE may identify and appoint individuals not identified through this process where deemed appropriate.

Temporary ex officio foundation governors ex officio foundation governor is Maintained schools: Temporary ex officio appointed, the Archdeacon is entitled to appointments appoint a substitute governor, called a "temporary ex officio foundation governor." In **DBE triggers process** the absence of an ex officio foundation governor, the temporary ex officio foundation governor has a particular role in supporting and Incumbent/PCC leads process of identifying and sustaining an ongoing link between the school proposing suitable candidate and Church. Liaison with school as Obtaining approval of appropriate in relation to Whilst the Archdeacon makes these Archdeacon to proposed appointment appointments (using the YDBE appointment appointment being made and co-ordination of processes), in practice individuals to serve as by DBE on their behalf. foundation governors are identified by the paperwork. vicar/similar or Parochial Church Council (PCC), sometimes with the support of the school, Incumbent/PCC returns form to DBE drawing on their local knowledge.² The process for their appointment can be found DBE confirms (conditional) appointment here. We ask the principal officiating minister or a School confirms appointment once checks complete representative of the PCC to co-ordinate these appointments.

There are a very small number of foundation governors in maintained schools that are appointed by a third party without a specific link to the Church of England. The YDBE processes do not apply to these appointments.

² The Archdeacon may identify and appoint individuals not identified though this process where appropriate.