

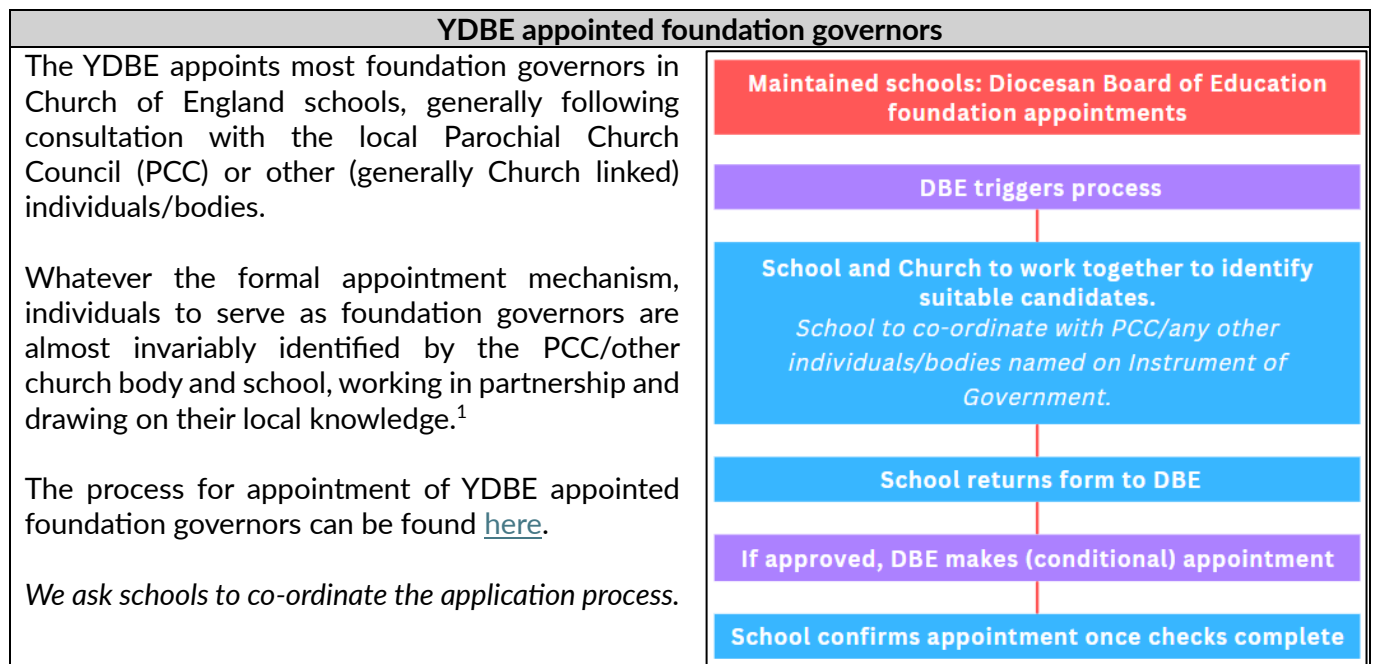
York Diocesan Board of Education (YDBE)



**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 [here](#).



**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).*

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

## Temporary ex officio foundation governors

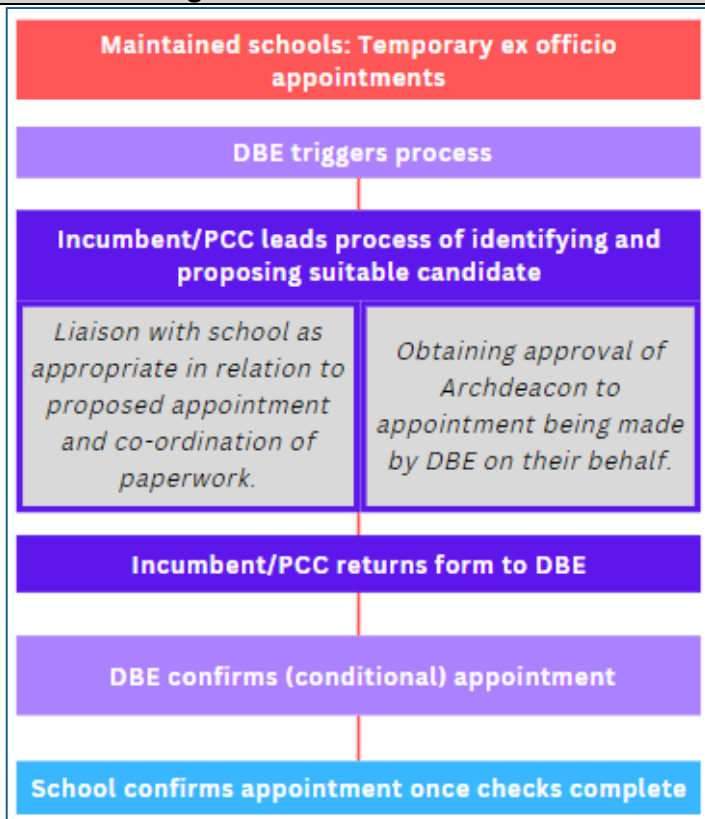
If no ex officio foundation governor is appointed, the Archdeacon is entitled to appoint a substitute governor, called a “temporary ex officio foundation governor.” In the absence of an ex officio foundation governor, the temporary ex officio foundation governor has a particular role in supporting and sustaining an ongoing link between the school and Church.

Temporary ex-officio governors will require re-appointment every 4 years. We will contact you immediately prior to this period to ensure the requirements are undertaken.

Whilst the Archdeacon makes these appointments (using the YDBE appointment processes), in practice individuals to serve as foundation governors are identified by the vicar/similar or Parochial Church Council (PCC), sometimes with the support of the school, drawing on their local knowledge.<sup>2</sup>

The process for their appointment can be found [here](#).

We ask the principal officiating minister or a 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assistant Director of Education (School Organisation and Governance) at [george.edmond@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:george.edmond@yorkdiocese.org).

<sup>2</sup> The Archdeacon may identify and appoint individuals not identified through this process where appropriate.