

### Introduction

Clergy Champion      Foundation Governors are entrusted by the Diocese of Salisbury with the ministry of school governance to act in recognition of the love of Christ for all members of the school community and for one another. As a governor, you have the vital role of making sure every child gets the best possible education, and as a person of Christian faith, you also carry the responsibility to ensure that everyone in the school community is valued and recognised as being a child of God.

‘Church schools stand at the centre of the Church’s mission to the nation’<sup>1</sup>, and as a Foundation Governor, you have been called to participate in this mission.

‘Mission and ministry...work best when mission springs from an incarnational approach to the relationship between church and the community at large.’<sup>2</sup>

As such, the role of Foundation Governor is a Godly ministry, and it is to be exercised through the skills for which you have been appointed, the gifts which God in Christ has given to you and the faith in Christ which you profess.

SDBE Officer      You have now completed your initial training for this role, you have met the qualifying criteria and you are aware of your responsibility to perform your duties as a school governor.

You have been appointed to contribute to the ministry of the Church by making our schools successful and to ensure that children are provided with a supportive environment within which they can learn and grow in Christ.

This is a sacred task. Those who are called to this ministry can only fulfil it by the grace and mercy of God, and with the prayers and support of all God’s faithful people.

Clergy Champion      ‘Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.’<sup>3</sup>

‘Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.’<sup>4</sup>

#### Prayers

*(Please ‘unmute’ your microphones)*

SDBE Officer      Lord, release in these Foundation Governors gathered here a greater understanding of their calling into this ministry. They have been set apart for service in the schools and academies in which they now serve, and by your Holy Spirit, I pray that you will equip them with all that they need to undertake this task diligently, faithfully and joyfully.

*(Please use the responses in **bold** – these begin at the top of the next page)*

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Education and the Church: into the next 200 years’ GS1845

<sup>2</sup> ‘Released for Mission: growing the rural church’ GS Misc. 1092 2015

<sup>3</sup> Romans 12: 1, New International Version

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 145: 3-4, New International Version

Governors **Lord, equip us and help us.**

Clergy Champion Lord, as Christ's ambassadors<sup>5</sup>, inspire these Foundation Governors gathered here to offer their bodies as living sacrifices that they may become living stones in the likeness of Your son, Jesus Christ, the living Stone.

Governors **Lord, inspire us and help us.**

SDBE Officer Lord, as these Foundation Governors gathered here undertake this journey of service and sacrifice, give them your holy gifts of love, faith and hope. Show them your ways and teach them your paths that they may find their hope always in you<sup>6</sup>.

Governors **Lord, teach us and help us.**

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

*(Please now 'mute' your microphones)*

**Presentation and Confirmation** *(Video conferencing version)*

Clergy Champion [*Friends*], may the certificate you are going to receive serve as a reminder that God Almighty will equip you, inspire you and teach you as you serve as a Foundation Governor for the schools and academies into which you have been called.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you His wisdom and peace.<sup>7</sup>

**The Commissioning**

*(Please 'unmute' your microphones)*

SDBE Officer You have read the duties of a Foundation Governor and have agreed to the expectations laid upon this role. You have sought the Lord in prayer and the blessing you have received and the help you have called upon, are to be remembered through the certificate you will soon receive. As we look forward to service in this role in the Lord's name, you will now be asked to commit to the task ahead and to fulfilling your duties as a Foundation Governor.

Clergy Champion Let us remember God's call to each one of us that through our baptism we too may serve Christ in one another and love, as He loves us.

We have been called by baptism to share in the ministry of the church. Will you now commit yourself to sharing in this ministry as a Foundation Governor?

*(Please use the responses in **bold** – these begin at the top of the next page)*

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<sup>5</sup> 2 Corinthians 5: 20

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 25: 4-5

<sup>7</sup> Numbers 6: 24-26

Governors **With the help of God, we will.**

Clergy Champion Will you seek to love and serve all those with whom you connect through your school context, supporting your Headteacher and your fellow governors working in partnership with the Board of Education? Will you seek to ensure that all children and young people in your care receive an education which is both excellent and deeply Christian?

Governors **With the help of God, we will.**

Clergy Champion Will you be a sign of the ministry to which Christ calls us all? Will you give generously of yourself, commit to your own spiritual and professional development and strive to follow in the way of Christ in all that you say and do?

Governors **With the help of God, we will.**

Clergy Champion Will you be faithful in your duties and diligent in your responsibilities? Will you partner with God in his work of transformation in you and your colleagues, in your school and parish, and in the lives of the children and young people whom you have been called to love and serve?

Governors **With the help of God, we will.**

### **Welcome and Blessing**

SDBE Officer On behalf of the Diocese of Salisbury, I welcome you into this ministry. May Almighty God, who for the salvation of the world gives to his people many gifts and ministries, for the advancement of his glory, stir up in you the gifts of his grace and sustain each one of you in your ministry as a Foundation Governor in the schools and academies to which you have now been appointed.

Clergy Champion The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Governors **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### The Role of Foundation Governor in the Diocese of Salisbury

As a Foundation Governor, you share the responsibility 'to preserve and develop the religious character and ethos of the school'<sup>8</sup> and to develop your spiritual leadership and that which is exercised by all those in leadership within your school community.

You are the vital link between the school and the parish and it is this 'school parish partnership [that] is recognised as an important part of thriving Christian communities.'<sup>9</sup>

In accordance with the expectations of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education, you will;

- fully support, cherish, preserve and develop the distinctive Anglican and Christian ethos of the school, ensuring that the school has a distinctive Anglican and Christian vision and values which lead to effective practice and outcomes
- preserve and strengthen the links between church, school and diocese
- take an active role in the school's self-evaluations of progress against the 'Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools' (SIAMS) schedule
- ensure that collective worship and religious education at the school follow the appropriate guidelines and/or syllabus
- ensure that collective worship at the school is in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England
- encourage, support and challenge the school towards aspirations that are transformational
- ensure that collective worship and religious education at the school are appropriately monitored
- ensure that the distinctive Anglican and Christian ethos of the school is encouraged and supported throughout its local community and is reflected in its policies and protocols, its curriculum and activities
- ensure that their own attitudes and behaviour in relation to the school reflect its distinctive Anglican and Christian ethos
- make sure that the School Improvement Plan includes strategy for the development of areas reflected in the school's SIAMS self-evaluation document
- inform the SDBE when the head teacher post becomes vacant and, in partnership with the Chair of Governors, invite a representative of the Diocesan Director of Education to advise and attend throughout the appointment procedure
- to support and challenge the leadership within the school in their links with the wider parish(es) and community and to promote support for school activities and initiatives relating to its Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> The Governance Handbook, Department for Education, January 2017

<sup>9</sup> 'Renewing Hope through Rural Ministry and Mission', Diocese of Salisbury, September 2017

<sup>10</sup> SDBE Foundation Governor Appointment Policy, April 2017