

APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – PRIEST INFORMATION.

Version: August 2025

In this diocese, all appointments to the position of Foundation Governor are made by the Bishop. The administrative process of appointing Foundation Governors is carried by the Education Service on the Bishop's behalf. It is only the Bishop who will decide to appoint (or not) to the position of Foundation Governor.

A crucial part of the appointment process is that of a supportive reference from the Parish Priest. Therefore, a person wishing to be considered for appointment as a Foundation Governor will be required, as part of the application process, to provide the name of a Priest who can verify their Catholic practice.

The Religious Reference will be provided separately to you by the Diocese following receipt of the Application Form.

If you are contacted to provide a reference, your role as referee is primarily to verify that the nominee is a practising Catholic in line with the definition from Bishop Marcus Stock in "*Christ at the Centre*":

An applicant defined as a practising Catholic is someone who:

"has been sacramentally initiated into the Catholic Church and who adheres to those substantive life choices which do not impair them from receiving the sacraments of the Church and which will not be in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the religious ethos and character of the school. Inspired by the Gospel and sustained by God's grace, a 'practising Catholic' will give sincere external expression to their interior faith through specific religious, moral and ethical behaviour which is in accordance with the teaching of Christ and the Catholic Church."

The applicant's attention will also have been drawn to the document regarding "Notes on Religious Practice and Marital Status" which is available on the School Governance section of our [website](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk).

You are not asked to provide any further information or assurances to support your original reference as required by the Bishop, but if you feel unable to make any such confirmation you are asked to call T: 01293 651144 or email E: schoolgovernance@abdiocese.org.uk and leave a message for somebody to call you back so that you can discuss your reservations.

You should note that no appointment comes into effect until the point at which the Bishop has formally notified the nominee that the appointment has been made, and to which school, and the nominee has accepted the appointment. Before that point, no action should be taken which gives the impression that an appointment has been or will be made. Only the Bishop can make an appointment, and it is important that nominees are not under the impression that appointments to specific schools will be made at the point at which a reference is requested.

You are encouraged not only to consider persons who may, in your opinion, make good Foundation Governors, but also to encourage a positive perception of governorship in Catholic schools in the Diocese generally.

Volunteering as a Foundation Governor is an important act of service which aims to strengthen and further the Church's mission, and we would encourage you to take the time to identify those in your parish who serve in this way and to offer thanks and prayers for their service. We would also encourage you to ask those who serve as Foundation Governors to encourage other parishioners to consider whether they too might serve, and if they are able, to put themselves forward for nomination.