

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St George has in recent years become a highly successful mixed school, consistently remaining amongst the top performing secondary schools in the city and now within the top 10% of schools nationally for pupil progress. It has become a hugely popular choice for parents, and places are oversubscribed. Recent intakes have been almost 100% Catholic. The school maintains an inclusive Christian, Catholic ethos and shared core values which create high expectations within a strong community environment where staff and students feel cared for. Full details of every aspect of the school can be found on the website at: www.stgcc.co.uk

The Governing body is currently looking for a new Foundation Governor to join their team. Governors are very much a part of the life of the school. They are always made to feel welcome and are invited to be involved in school and staff events wherever appropriate. Alongside is a description of the role, written by one of our Foundation Governors.

We warmly welcome enquiries, without obligation, from anyone who would be interested in considering supporting the school in this way. If you think this could be of interest, please contact Anna McCormack, the Chair of Governors at amccormack@stgcc.co.uk

Up to date details of the Governing body can be found on the school website at: www.stgcc.co.uk/page/?title=Governors+Information&pid=20

Further information is also available on the Catholic Schools and Academies Office for the Diocese of Portsmouth website link: www.casop Portsmouth.org.uk/governors/



Why be a school governor?

Come and be part of a team whose main purpose is focused on improving the life chances of children, some of whom come from challenging backgrounds. These children will in time play their part in shaping our world. They are the next generation and need the best education we can provide for them at this critical time in their lives.

Everyone has life experiences they can bring to the table which can be so important in providing an external perspective for school leaders. You may have developed skills in your own working life which you could use within the team to the benefit of children. You may be looking for a personal development opportunity. If you have children at the school, it is a great way of really being in touch with their education as well as understanding and being a part of the work that goes on 'behind the scenes'. If you have retired it is a great way to maintain and use some of the skills and experience you have gained over the years at work in a really useful way. At St George it is an opportunity to work with a very genuine and friendly team of governors and staff.

What is the purpose of the governing body?

Essentially it is a body of representatives to which the headteacher is ultimately accountable to, for the financial and strategic decisions he/she makes, ensuring money is spent wisely and good decisions are made concerning the educational performance of the school. It is important that the governing body can be a 'critical friend' to the senior leadership team, constructively challenging them in areas which need further clarity or improvements. It works alongside senior leaders and teachers to oversee the management side of the school, supporting strategy development, developing and approving policies and budgets, maintaining an overview of staffing and analysing educational outcomes, which collectively enable the school to provide an excellent education to children.

How does a school governor carry out their role?

- Attend one full Governing Body meeting each term.
- Be a member of one or two other sub-committees within the group and attend these meetings – usually no more than one per term.
- Be a link to a specific area of school life – eg a department area, safeguarding, SEND, getting to know the relevant staff and typical activities and issues they are working with.
- Become familiar with the School Development Plan
- Read through the termly Head Teachers report which gives a detailed update on every aspect of the school.
- Weekly staff circular sent to governors for awareness of everything happening in the school over the coming week.

What does a 'foundation' governor do?

Foundation governors represent the Bishop on the governing body. In addition to the above tasks, their role is also in particular to understand, support and input where/if appropriate to the Catholic Ethos of the school, through the Chaplaincy, RE department and Senior management. Attending retreat days, school Masses and visiting the Chaplaincy are good ways of keeping in touch with this area of school life. In addition to OFSTED inspections, Catholic schools are also inspected by a team representing the diocese, to ensure they are meeting the standards expected in religious education and in maintaining the Catholic ethos. Foundation governors need to be familiar with the position of the school with regards to these inspections.

Who can be a foundation governor?

Any practising Catholic over the age of 18 can become a Foundation Governor. There is no magic formula about what makes a perfect Foundation Governor, they come from all walks of life and all ages but it is important that each governing body has a good mix of skills, knowledge and experience. There is plenty of training made available for all governors around the local area, in any aspect of the work they are involved in.