

## **THE FOUNDATION GOVERNOR**

All school governors contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:-

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Foundation governors only exist in Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools and are appointed by the school's founding body, church or other organisation named in the school's Instrument of Government. They may hold their governorship in an ex officio capacity if they are the holder of an office specified in the Instrument of Government, for example, a parish priest. If the school has a religious character, the foundation governors must preserve and develop this. They must also ensure compliance with the trust deed, if there is one.

### **As an effective Foundation governor you:**

- support the aims of your school;
- make yourself aware of the ethos statement or trust deed of the school;
- visit and get to know your school;
- work co-operatively with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children;
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand;
- take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training;
- attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time;
- read briefings and newsletters for governors;
- promote the interests of the school in the wider community;
- be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body;
- respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs;
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial;
- have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body.