



ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
GOOD PRACTICE FOR CHURCH SCHOOL GOVERNORS



All governors and new governors especially should remember: **all governors have legal duties which are clearly set out in ‘School Governors: a guide to the law’, published by the DfES, on their governor website⁽¹⁾, for both Voluntary Aides and Voluntary Controlled Schools. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY AND BOOKMARK FOR REFERENCE.**

▪ **Responsibilities**

The governing body as a whole has responsibility for determining, monitoring and keeping under review the broad policies, plans and procedures within which the school operates. Governors should recognise that it is the headteacher who is responsible for the implementation of policy, management of the school and delivering the curriculum. Governors are not usually expected to become involved in daily management issues.

▪ **Status**

All governors have equal status, and although governors are appointed by different groups (e.g. parents, staff and LEAs), their central concern should be the welfare of the Church school as a whole. At all items governors act as a body. No governor may act unless authorised to do so by a resolution of the governing body. This is generally true of the Chairman also.

▪ **Employees**

In so far as they employ staff, governors should fulfil all reasonable expectations of a good employer. If in doubt about employment law, seek professional help from the LEA and Diocese.

▪ **Open Government**

Governors should encourage open government, i.e. they need to consult and inform, give reasons for their actions and avoid unnecessary secrecy.

▪ **Sub-Committee Service**

All governors should involve themselves actively in the work of the governing body and accept a fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees and work groups.

▪ **Attendance**

Regular attendance is desirable at meeting of both the full governing body, committees and of working groups. Prolonged absence would jeopardise your membership of the governing body.

▪ **Support the School**

Governors must know the school well and take all possible opportunities for involvement in school activities.

▪ **Co-operation**

Governors should strive to operate as a team in which constructive working relationships are actively promoted.

(1) www.governornet.co.uk

Governors should develop effective working relationships with headteachers, staff, parent groups, LEA, Church and Diocese and other relevant agencies.

- **Confidentiality**

Governors must respect complete confidentiality when asked to do so by the governing body, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff or pupils.

Although decisions reached at governors' meetings are normally made public through the minutes or otherwise, the discussions on which the decisions were based should be regarded as confidential.

- **Corporate Responsibility**

Governors should express their views openly within meetings but accept collective responsibility for all decisions. It is quite unacceptable for a governor to say outside a governors' meeting that she/he did not agree with a particular decision and is not going to be bound by it. Once a resolution is passed, all governors are bound by it.

- **Visits**

All visits to the schools should be undertaken within a framework which has been established by the governing body and agreed with the headteacher.

- **Complaints**

In responding to criticism or complaints about the school, governors should follow procedures established by the governing body.

- **The Church**

Governors have a responsibility to maintain and develop the Christian ethos of the school, to promote Religious Education and worship in the school and maintain good relations with the parish and local community.