

## Supporting school leaders

All governors offer both support and challenge to school head teachers. They draw on their own backgrounds, experience and hopes for the school. They aim to help school leaders make the right decisions for their school and community.

Governors also serve on committees which look more closely at issues relating to finance or staffing, for example.

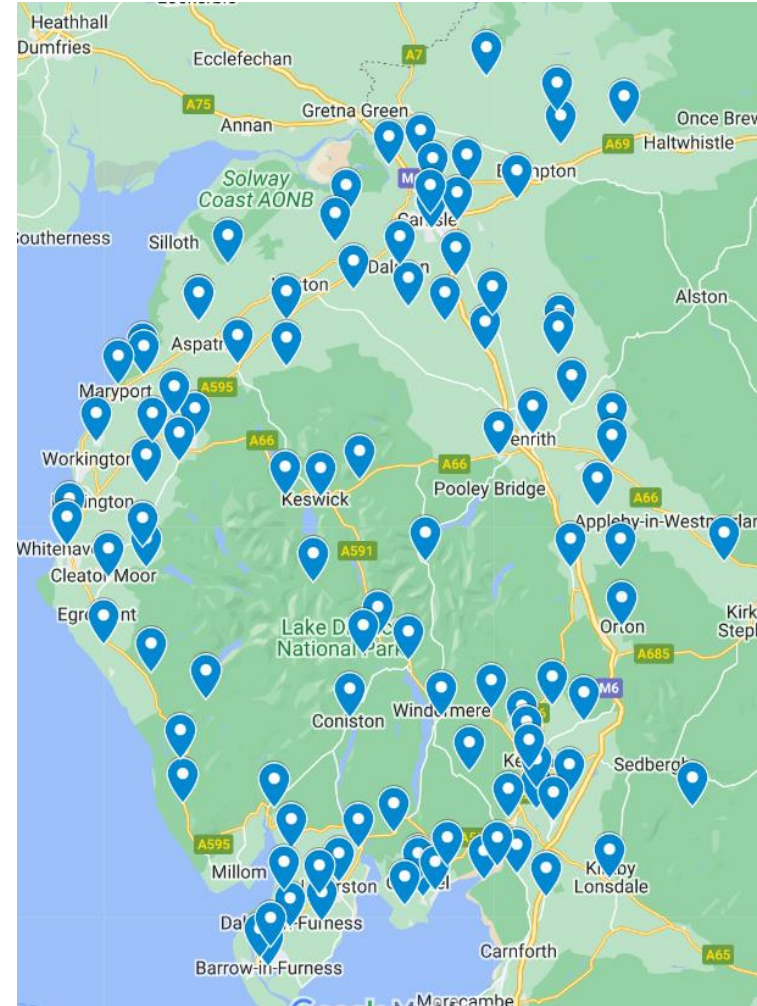
Foundation Governors help schools to live out their Christian purpose in their everyday activities. They show that they support the Christian ethos of the school. This in turn helps schools prepare for inspections and helps schools evaluate their own progress towards their aims for the children in their communities.

**For more information contact –  
Your local Parochial Church Council  
members  
Diocese Governance Officer  
[lisa.pettifer@carlisedioocese.org.uk](mailto:lisa.pettifer@carlisedioocese.org.uk)  
Diocese website [Schools and  
Education - Diocese of Carlisle](http://Schools and Education - Diocese of Carlisle)  
[carlisedioocese.org.uk](http://carlisedioocese.org.uk)  
Or talk to your local headteacher or  
vicar**

## Our schools

Church of England schools flourish throughout Carlisle Diocese.

102 primary schools and 2 secondary schools fall within our oversight, ranging in size from fewer than 30 pupils to around 1700. This means that hundreds of Foundation Governors are needed.



Called to be a  
Foundation  
Governor



Our schools are “deeply  
Christian, serving the common  
good”: Church of England Vision  
for Education (2016)

## What does a school governor DO?

All school governors are responsible for three main areas. They

- attend meetings and take part in discussions to ensure that the school has strong values
- help make sure that the school runs effectively
- attend events to promote the school and support the community



“Always keep busy and working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile” 1 Cor 15 v 58

## Why is a Foundation Governor different?

Foundation Governors are local people who support the Church of England foundations of the school. They might be regular attenders of the local Church of England church, or other Christian churches, but they may also be people who more generally support the aims and vision of a church school. A Foundation Governor is appointed by the Diocese following a nomination by a PCC (Parochial Church Council).

## Supporting the Christian ethos of the school

All Foundation Governors share an interest in furthering the aims of the Church of England. In its 'Vision for Education' document, the Church of England states: “There are fundamental reasons, rooted in the Bible, which have motivated centuries of Christian involvement in schooling in this country and around the world...” and goes on to say: “It would be a narrow and unbiblical position, alien to the traditions and current practice of the Church of England, to try to separate the life of the Church from involvement in education”, emphasizing the value of church-school connections.

## Induction and training



If you think becoming a Foundation Governor sounds interesting, or you feel you are being called to serve in this capacity but feel unsure of your skills, rest assured that various levels of induction and training are offered by the schools, the governing boards themselves, the Diocese and wider support organisations. 1 Peter 4 v10 reminds us: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” – our Foundation Governors are stewards of God's grace in education and the wider lives of children and communities, and are very highly valued because of this.