Dear Clergy and Congregations

**Recruiting new Foundation Governors in your area!**

Manchester Diocesan Board of Education and local PCCs are wishing to recruit people who would be willing to volunteer to serve as a Foundation Governor in a Church School in your area. Please could this be announced in your churches. People of all walks of life and backgrounds are encouraged to serve in this vital area of Christian vocation. The term of office is for 4 years with usually 6 meetings each year spread out half termly, maybe rising to more as involvement developed.

People sometimes believe they have nothing to give and shy away from volunteering to be a school governor, however everyone has something to give and diversity of background, skills and experience are particularly valued.  Some people with dyslexia/neurodiversity issues can be put off volunteering due to the amount of paperwork to be read before each meeting, however adjustments can be put in place by schools to assist with this and often people with such neurodiversity can bring a clarity of thought and a much needed alternative viewpoint to the Governing Body as it guides the school to the future and sets and monitors strategic vision.

To be a school governor is a valued outworking of Christian Faith in the community.  The Board of Education would encourage interested people of all faiths and none to serve as Foundation Governors if they are prepared to commit to upholding the Christian Distinctiveness of the trust deed of the school.  Training from the Board of Education is available concerning the detail of how to uphold the Christian Distinctiveness of a school, details of which can be found on the Governance page of the Manchester Anglican website.

Congregations may know of suitable people who would be keen to become involved in school governance in order to give back to the community or school they attended as a child.  Please do encourage people to talk about this to their colleagues, friends and family: these people are often a source of good governors.  Governors must be aged 18 and over and governing bodies are keen to reflect the populations they serve and into which pupils will grow.  This involves recruiting for inclusivity, giving all the opportunity to serve in an Anglican school context where all are welcomed.

[School Governance - Diocese of Manchester (anglican.org)](https://www.manchester.anglican.org/schools/school-governance/)

These two videos may be of interest.  They encourage interested people to register with Inspiring Governance which will match vacancies to volunteers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-ArsHUMk84>

<https://www.nga.org.uk/News/Campaigns/Everyone-on-Board-increasing-diversity-in-school-g.aspx>

A quicker way ahead would be to email myself, Helen Cowley, Governance Administrator, helencowley@manchester.anglican.org, or DBEGovernance@manchester.anglican.org, or speak to your PCC. We have vacancies ready to fill now.

Thank you for your help with this appeal which is sewing seeds in order that pupils may be enabled to live life in all its fullness.