

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY STATEMENT

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

In view of the Christian foundation of the Church of England schools in the Diocese, the Board of Education recommends that governing bodies ensure that there is a nomination for the chair from among their foundation governors. The chair of governors needs to have a vision for the school and its future development and needs to understand the role of the church school in the local community and in particular, in relation to the church community. The chair of governors will be mindful of the ethos of the school and will wish to ensure that the school's Christian foundation, as reflected in the Trust Deed, is safeguarded and developed.

The Board considers it vital that the incumbent of the parish plays an active role in the school through his/her involvement with the governing body. The Board recognises that incumbents do not always feel that their skills lie in chairing the governing body, but believes it important for incumbents to consider seriously how they might act as a pastoral support to the headteacher and staff in the school.

The Board is aware that there is a legal requirement for governing bodies to elect a chair and vice-chair of governors. However, it recognises that the role of the chair of governors can be an enormous task and that in some governing bodies there is a reluctance among members to take on this particular role. The Board strongly recommends, therefore, that governing bodies look at practical ways of supporting the chair of governors and sharing the workload.

The Board suggests that the expectations of the role of the chair of governors are clearly set down and agreed by the governing body and that the vice-chair takes on specific responsibilities so that the role complements that of the chair. It is important that both are supported in their respective roles by individual members of the governing body working together through an effective committee structure. The Board is committed to supporting chairs of governors through training and advice and will continue to look at ways of improving its support.

January 1997 (Schools Committee)