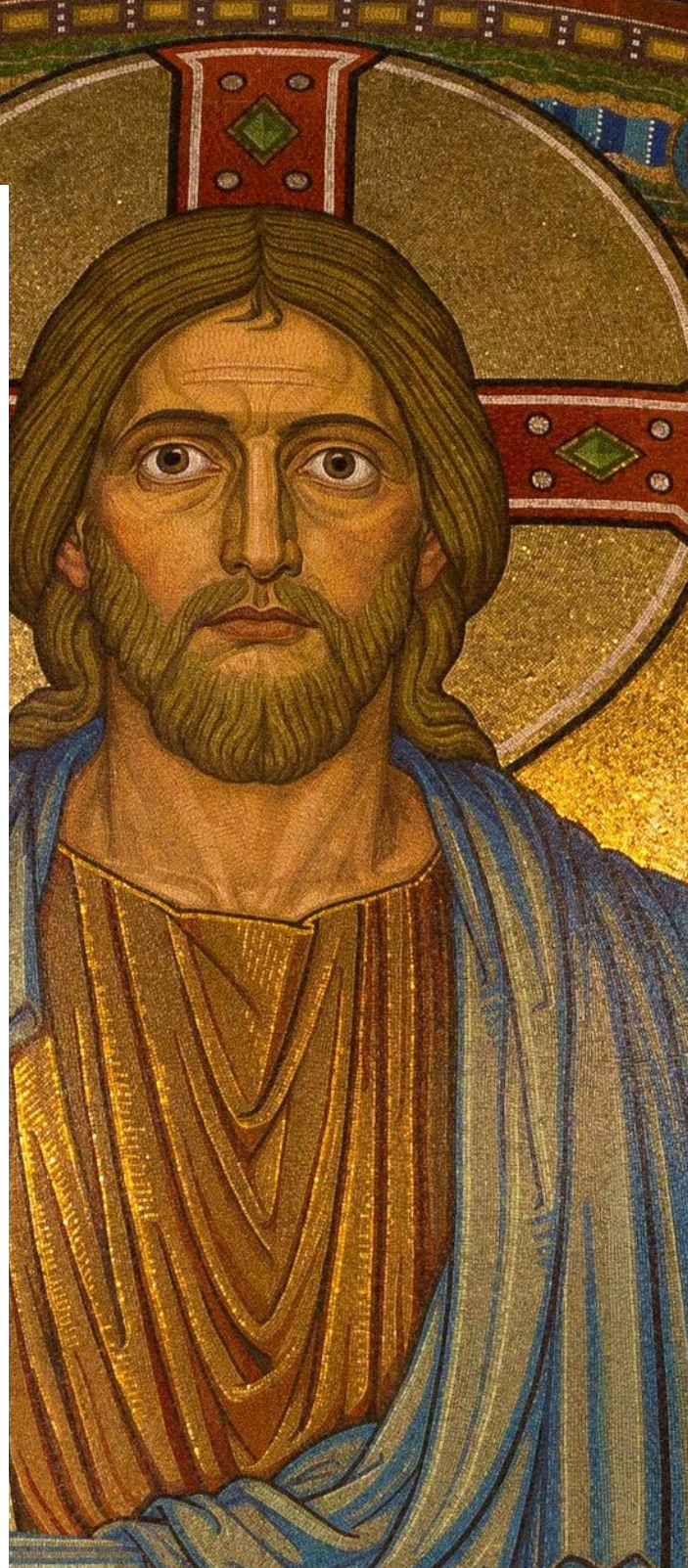


# Serving as a Parent Governor

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**The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy  
Company**  
Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG



The  
Pope Francis Catholic  
Multi Academy Company

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# Catholic Education in Oxfordshire

## **Our Mission Statement and Vision**

**Delivery of excellence in Catholic Education for our children, made in the image and likeness of God**

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (PFMAC) is the family of Catholic schools in Oxfordshire, who work together to promote the teaching of Christ and the Catholic faith.

We believe each person is a unique creation made in the image of and likeness of God, called by name, with a special vocation and gifts to bring to the world. We seek to develop these talents in each individual by being a beacon for Catholic education in Oxfordshire.

Our vision is:

- To provide a culture, ethos and practice in each school that is distinctively Catholic, with the love of God at the centre, offering service and reconciliation to all.
- To grow, develop and continue to provide opportunities and experiences to encourage our students, at every stage of progress, to achieve their full potential, preparing them to face the future with confidence and a sense of their place in our diverse society.
- To provide outstanding teaching and learning enabling our pupils to become self-motivated, aspirational lifelong learners.
- To enhance, broaden and strengthen effective relationships between our parishes, homes and schools, thereby continuing to grow in faith and understanding together.
- To value all students, staff, parents and carers who attend and/or work in our schools, whether Catholic, of other faiths or none.

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We are a Catholic Multi Academy Company within the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We have a close working relationship with the Diocesan Education Service, the Local Authority, the Department for Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency and other local schools and academies.

We are committed to striving for excellence in delivering Catholic education for our students. We pray that the Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company will lead and inspire all who attend, work and teach in our academies to achieve their potential by following in the path of Christ.

*“The role of a governor is rewarding, challenging and interesting. Even though I have not worked in education before, contributing to the committee has helped me to develop new skills and polish old ones. As a stay-at-home mum and self-employed person, I missed feeling part of an organisation. Being a governor has given me that sense of community and I have enjoyed working alongside people who are passionate about enriching the lives of children in our parish.”*

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# Local Governance

Our approach to governance reflects the vision of the PFMAC, which enshrines the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity which underpin Catholic Social Teaching. Subsidiarity means that decisions are best made by those who are closest to their effects; its express purpose is to avoid excessive centralisation. Consequently, Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) have significant responsibilities delegated to them by the Board of Directors.

The core functions of the Local Governing Body are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and performance of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
- Ensuring decisions consider the views and experiences of stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff and the community)
- Maintaining the Catholic vision and character of the school

## PARENT GOVERNORS

Parent governors are elected by the parents of a school and work alongside other members of the Local Governing Body. They are elected to bring a parental perspective to the issues discussed but it is important to recognise that parents are not there to speak 'on behalf' the parent body. Parent governors have the same voting rights and responsibilities as other governors.

Parent governors come from all walks of life, and it is important that our Local Governing Bodies reflect the communities they serve. Each Local Governing Body needs a good mix

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of skills, knowledge and experience. What Parent governors have in common is a deep commitment to serving their local communities and living out their faith in a practical way.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME COMMITMENTS

The average governor role will take up about 10-12 hours per month. However, this can vary depending on the school calendar or events such as an Ofsted Inspection or Catholic Schools Inspection.

This commitment includes the minimum of attending three or four full governor meetings a year and serving on at least one committee. The committees focus on areas such as: finance and resources and education standards.

Parent governors are elected for a four-year term of office, after which they can stand for re-election. Parent governors must have parental responsibility for a child attending the school at the time of their election, however, they continue to serve their term of office even if their child leaves the school.

Support and training are important to enable new governors to exercise their responsibilities effectively. The PFMAC offers a training programme and recommended schedule of training for all our governors, in addition to providing access to third-party training partners. Moreover, each Local Governing Body is supported by a professional clerk who provides advice and guidance.

## DO I FIT THE CRITERIA?

Parent governors must have parental responsibility for a child attending the school at the time of their election. They do not need to be practising Catholics, however, like all governors in PFMAC school they have responsibility to uphold and promote the Catholic Foundation of the school.

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Nominees are not expected to have a direct knowledge of current education law, of school organisation or governance but should be willing to learn and dedicate reasonable time to their responsibilities.

You do not need teaching experience and it is useful to bring skills from all areas of your life, such as financial, human resources, buildings, health and safety, safeguarding, parish work and community work. Schools are also looking for governors who reflect the ethnic, cultural and social background of their catchment area.

The PFMAC is committed to safeguarding children and all applicants are required to complete a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check as part of the application process.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Elections of parent governors will be held when a vacancy occurs. However, if you are interested in serving please express an interest by talking to your Chair of Governors or Headteacher. Alternatively contact the PFMAC's [Governance Manager](#) to discuss further.

If you are a practising Catholic you may like to consider serving as a Foundation Governor, please see the leaflet on the Role of the Foundation Governor for more information.