

Dear Foundation Governor,

First of all, may I thank you on behalf of the Bishop for giving your time and efforts so generously to the work of governance in our Catholic schools. Your role is pivotal to the provision of Catholic Education in our Diocese. You represent the Bishop in a very special way. The detailed work that you undertake in co-operation with others in your school, with our Diocesan Education Service, and your Local Authority is what enables teachers to have the resources to teach and what gives pupils the environment in which to prosper.

However, your vocation as a Foundation Governor (and vocation it surely is!) involves you in more than just the mechanics of running the school. It makes you a partner, with the Bishop, priests, teachers, officers, advisors and catechists of the Diocese in the proclamation of the Gospel message within the whole school community and beyond. This is a wonderful Christian vocation which continually proclaims Jesus Christ as the 'keystone' and centre of all we do and are. It is a truly apostolic work with the awesome purpose of inspiring young people to follow Christ and to be his witnesses in their everyday lives. Since we 'cannot give what we have not got', it is also a challenging endeavour for all of us, but the end result; that we may 'have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10), is always worth the discomforts of the journey.

This publication, for which we are indebted to our Diocesan team of dedicated officers and advisors, is meant to help you fulfil your role as a Foundation Governor. May the Lord of the harvest continue to bless your endeavours and give you joy and fulfilment in working with others for the good of all who learn and teach in the educational establishments of the Salford Diocese.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Canon Anthony McBride". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a horizontal line under the name.

Canon T. A. McBride
Episcopal Vicar for Formation.