



# Securing the ethos and values of a church foundation school

# A shared responsibility

- The instrument of government describes the basis for the governance of the school.
- *All* governors share the same responsibility for ensuring that the school upholds its trust status as expressed in the ethos statement for Church of England Voluntary Schools (whether controlled or aided).

# Instrument of Government

Describes the:

status of the school,  
the composition of the governing body,  
the ethos of the school and  
whether or not it has an extant trust deed.

*'A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing body, and the trustees under any trust deed, and to the appropriate diocesan authority.'*

# A shared ethos statement of the Church of England for all its schools

- *Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.*
- *The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.'*

# Reflection

- How well do you think the instrument of government of your school is known to staff and governors?
- How well do you think the ethos statement is known? Where else would you find reference to it around the school or in school documents?
- If the ethos statement is a central component of the instrument of government for the school, who is responsible for ensuring that it is upheld in the life and work of the school?