



# Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP)

## Improving Church School Governance

Starts January 2020

The Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) is aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. The programme has been developed by experts and professionals with a background in church school leadership, governance and inspection.

### Why do this course?

- Raise your awareness of the changing expectations of Governing Boards and meeting today's challenges in the education sector, whilst holding on to the mission and vision of a church school.
- Engage professionally with others in a collaborative and interactive module.
- Study online in your own time, whilst benefitting from access to personal tutors and group reflections.
- Key themes include the changing context, mission, vision and values, collaborative learning, decision-making and accountability.

### Audience

Primarily designed for experienced, new and aspiring governors and trustees (directors) working within church schools. Governors of faith working within non-church schools may find the programme personally enriching.

### Dates

January - April 2020

### Study Time

The course consists of 6 modules, each taken over a 2 week period. It is expected that you will undertake a minimum of 2 hours per module (1 hour per week) to complete the course. You will also submit a 500 word Reflective Journal to receive your Certificate of Completion.

### Cost

Number of Places per School /MAT/Diocese*	Price
1	£199 (Reduced for 2020)
2+	£175
5+	£150
10+	£125

*\*Discounted rates available for groups from individual schools or within MATS or Dioceses, please notify us of the number in the group when applying.*

### Contact

For further information and/or to register please contact:

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#### Quotes from previous participants include:

*"I loved the interaction on the discussion forums with other candidates and my tutor. It was very useful to hear different perspectives from other faiths and schools on the material that I may not have picked up on or made me understand some aspects more fully by their comments and experiences."*

*"I have become a more thoughtful and aware governor, certainly one empowered to protect and promote the Christian ethos of my school."*

*"Excellent programme which was challenging and enriching in equal measure. It helped me to rekindle my vocation as governor."*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the breadth of material which kept me engaged and improved the learning outcomes. A very well thought out programme to cater for all intellects and styles of learning."*

*"It increased my knowledge, made me more confident in the skills I already have and clearly identifies for me the skills I need to develop to be an effective governor."*

#### Case Study 1

Alison Brabner, Governor at Cranfield Church of England Academy.

*Did you have any reservations about taking this course and were these overcome?*

I didn't have any concerns about the course itself as I was really keen to learn and reflect on my practice, but I was apprehensive about consistently finding the time to devote to each module. However, the course is really flexible – the modules do not have to be completed in one session so you can slot it in around other commitments and there is lots of opportunity for further study / reading which again you either complete at the time or keep as future resources to explore.

*To what extent do you feel your knowledge of Church School Governance has been enhanced?*

The content is extremely thought provoking but when this is explored further with your fellow participants in the discussion groups, the course really comes alive. The course group tutor was outstanding – extremely knowledgeable and really skilled at questioning and developing the conversation in a supportive but challenging way and I thoroughly enjoyed exploring other people's experience of Governance and learning from them. My knowledge has been enhanced considerably but more importantly, my confidence in questioning from a Church perspective has improved dramatically. Feeling confident to ask the questions you need to ask because it is backed with deeper understanding is so valuable.

*What are the next steps for you/your school - do you intend to take further training or implement any new plans at your school?*

I think the schools are continually evolving and the course will undoubtedly help this journey unfold and ensure that my governance remains deeply rooted within a Christian ethos. I think it will shape plans rather than fundamentally change them but I think that would very much depend on the situation of an individual school.

#### Case Study 2

John Thornhill, Chair at All Saints Catholic High School and Savio Salesian College and National Leader of Governance.

*What did you personally enjoy the most about this course?*

The challenge to many aspects of the role which I might have taken for granted. The opportunity to examine a wide range of relevant issues such as leadership styles and the impact they have on those around us. I so often take much for granted and I needed to think more constructively 'outside the box' to allow me to reflect on my role and improve my contribution to the Board.

*To what extent do you feel your knowledge of Church School Governance has been enhanced?*

Significantly. I have gained much from the experience, which has given me a sharper understanding of governance in a faith school and the need to underpin everything we do within the teachings of Christ and the gospels. I have realised that any development should be set in this context so that we give all our pupils a clear appreciation of how to behave in a dignified and considerate manner respecting every one as a child of God.

*In what ways will your school benefit from you having taken this course?*

I hope the school will benefit from a renewed and refreshed approach to my philosophy of Christian values and education. I will bring a broader approach to the ethos for the school ensuring that such values are at the centre of and drive all developments and plans. In one school we will shift the emphasis for supporting those pupils who need it away for such segregation or 'referral' to a programme that encourages them to reflect, recognise and rehabilitate themselves giving them ownership of their development.