Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School
Winterbourne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9LW
Email: office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk
Web: www.winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk
Telephone: 01305 889297
Headteacher Mrs E Sleightholme

28th September 2026

The Governing Body of Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School is seeking to appoint two Foundation Governors and a voluntary Local Authority (LA) Governor to join our dedicated team which helps provide strategic oversight, monitor school performance and support our headteacher, Mrs Emma Sleightholme.

Location: Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School, Winterbourne Abbas, Dorchester, DT2 9LW
Appointment Process: Following application, successful LA governor applicants are nominated by Dorset Council and appointed by the school's Full Governing Board.

About Our School

Winterbourne Valley CE VA First School is a small, nurturing and inclusive village school community. Grounded in the Christian faith and driven by our motto, *"Strong roots, successful futures!"*, we aim to ensure every child feels happy, confident and inspired to achieve her/his very best. While LA Governors do not have to be Christian, they are expected to support and help sustain our distinctive Christian character.

LA Governors do not need to be education experts. Instead, they bring valuable external skills to help set strategic goals, to ensure financial oversight and to support, monitor and challenge school leadership. Governors have access to free training and support networks via the Local Authority and the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education.

Why Join Us?

- To help support local children: play an active part in ensuring the children in the Winterbourne Valley and beyond flourish.
- To promote community connection: become involved in a vital, close-knit community hub.
- To share your life experiences and background: ensure the governing board represents the wider community and can draw upon a diverse range of skills

Requirements & Time Commitment

- Attend full Governing Body meetings held 4/5 times times a year (usually late afternoon/early evening) and attend sub-committee meetings 3 times a year, reviewing papers as needed
- Undertake relevant training (free and largely on line)
- The successful applicant will be required to fill out a local authority application form and pass an **enhanced DBS check**.

How to Apply

Interested candidates must submit an application form through Dorset Council.

- To discuss the role informally or arrange a visit to the school, contact the school office at **office@winterbournevalley.dorset.sch.uk** or call **01305 889297**.
- To submit your application form directly to the council, contact the **Dorset Governor Services Team** at **governorhelp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk** or call **01305 224156**.