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# Church Membership Criteria

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS, FOUNDATION SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

**(in which the Governing Body is the employer)**

The following information offers advice regarding the Church criteria.

The requirement is for a ‘full and active member of a Church in membership of Churches Together in England or which at a local level works closely with an Anglican church in this Diocese.

‘Full and active’ means a regular churchgoer who attends more than once a month, is known to the parish priest / minister and is involved in church activities.

The list of Churches Together in England and its associated bodies can be found on its website: [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) Applications will be checked against the current list.

**Guidance for Candidates:**

It is essential that the Diocesan application form is used.

You must give a faith referee, as outlined on the application form. The referee should be your present parish priest / minister who is able to verify your own personal commitment to the Christian faith outside of work, and the worship life of your church. If you do not use him/her, you must give an explanation on the application form or in your letter of application.

You are asked in your letter of application to describe how your previous experience and achievements have helped to prepare you for a post in a Church school. You should give a clear statement of:

* Your personal involvement in the life of your church
* Your educational philosophy, its implementation in practice and your commitment to developing the Christian character of the school.

You should address the areas shown in the person specification and job description.

Please include any other information you feel would be helpful. Your letter must be clear and concise with well organised views, addressing the specific post in the specific school.

**Other matters.**

The National Society Contract of employment will be used.The relevant section of the contract is as follows:

*As the Headteacher/[Deputy Headteacher] of a Church of England school, you are required to have regard to the Christian character of the School and its Foundation and to undertake not to do anything in any way contrary to the interests of the Foundation.*

*You are required to give and/or supervise the giving of religious education in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England Church and the Trust Deed of the school.*

*You are required to take part in and lead acts of religious worship [if required by the headteacher].*