



## Notes of Meeting: South West Headteacher Board

Monday 19 October 2020

### Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

HTB members who apologised have been consulted on all projects, where available, before the meeting. This excludes items where there were conflicts. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate).

### Regional school commissioner (RSC) chair

- Hannah Woodhouse (RSC)

### Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Brian Hooper (HTB)
- Suzanne Flack (HTB)
- Sally Apps (HTB)
- Steve Savory (HTB)
- Paul Jones (HTB)
- Michael Larsen (HTB)
- Alun Williams (HTB)
- Joy Tubbs (HTB)

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Michael Larsen was unable to attend the last 30 minutes of the meeting

### DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings (Deputy Director)
- Matt Stevenson (Deputy Director)

## General discussion points

The Regional Schools Commissioner gave a regional update on ongoing COVID-19 response work and the challenges and opportunities in the region.

## Discussion of projects, including decisions made by RSC with advice from HTB

All decisions are made in reference to relevant legislation and the published criteria.

### Trust change

#### **Project: Whether to approve the transfer of The Levels Academy Trust, Somerset to Preston Primary Academy Trust**

HTB discussion:

- The historic and ongoing concerns about The Levels Academy Trust's (TLAT) educational performance, school improvement capacity, governance and long term viability
- Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT) is local to TLAT and is providing support to TLAT ahead of the prospective transfer
- PPAT has a strong track record of school improvement
- PPAT should continue to review governance structures in light of growth
- RSC recommended PPAT conduct an external review of governance in 2021 and implement findings before further growth applications
- PPAT is encouraged to continue sharing expertise and linking up with other MATs
- HTB members are supportive of the transfer

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

### Converter academy orders

#### **Project: Whether to approve Plymouth High School for Girls, Plymouth converting to academy status and joining The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Kent**

HTB discussion:

- The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a trust in Kent with strong outcomes and a track record of school improvement
- TSAT has previous experience of working in the South West region, therefore cognisant of some of the challenges in the region
- There is a risk of sustainability with TSAT's hub in Plymouth only having one school, this is being carefully managed by the trust
- The trust need to ensure that there is sufficient separation between Trust Board and Academy Advisory Board members

- No issues financially for this project

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

### **Project: Whether to approve Thorncombe, St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Dorset converting to academy status and joining Acorn Multi Academy Trust**

HTB discussion:

- Thorncombe has been working with Acorn for the past two academic years in a successful management partnership after it was judged RI in 2018
- Acorn MAT has been providing school improvement, governance and finance support to the school
- The school and trust now want to formalise their partnership through the conversion route to ensure the school's sustainability
- Dorset Local Authority and the Diocese of Bath and Wells support the proposal
- There is a risk around school viability in light of the declining pupil numbers at Thorncombe but this is being carefully managed and addressed by the school and trust. This will need to be monitored carefully
- Acorn MAT's school improvement capacity and actions which need to be taken by the trust to ensure future sustainability
- Acorn to ensure that their governance structures are compliant

RSC decision: Approve with the following conditions:

- That the trust commit to work with the RSC office to secure its long-term future through joining another trust.
- The trust conduct an external review of governance and share the outcome with the RSC office prior to transfer.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

### **Significant change**

#### **Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for The Springfields Academy, Wiltshire to increase capacity**

HTB discussion:

- Supported by the Local Authority, who has confirmed the need in the area
- No issues raised

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

## **Any other RSC decisions not covered above (requests from academies to vary their admission arrangements due to the effects of COVID-19)**

Requests were approved by the RSC via the RSC correspondence log for the following schools:

- Breage CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Cury CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Grade Ruan CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Wendoron CE Primary School, Cornwall
- The Crypt School, Gloucestershire
- Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucestershire
- Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire
- Ribston Hall High School, Gloucestershire
- Torquay Girls Grammar School, Torbay
- Colyton Grammar School, Devon
- Sir Robert Geffery's Voluntary Aided CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Denmark Road High School, Gloucestershire
- Torquay Boys Grammar School, Torbay
- Marling School, Gloucestershire
- Stroud High School, Gloucestershire
- Devonport High School for Girls, Plymouth
- Devonport High School for Boys, Plymouth
- Churston Ferrers Grammar School Academy, Torbay
- Bemerton St John Primary School, Wiltshire
- Sarum Academy, Wiltshire
- St Edmund's Girls' School, Wiltshire
- Wyvern College, Wiltshire
- The New Forest Primary School, Wiltshire
- The Deanery CE Academy, Swindon
- Axbridge CE First School Academy, Somerset
- Brent Knoll CE Primary School, Somerset
- East Brent CE First School, Somerset
- Hugh Sexey CE Middle School, Somerset
- Lympsham CE Academy, Somerset
- Mark CE First School, Somerset
- The Kings of Wessex Academy, Somerset
- Weare Academy CE First School, Somerset
- The Taunton Academy, Somerset
- Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Taunton, Somerset
- Chew Stoke Church School, Bath and NE Somerset
- The Blue School, Somerset
- St Anne's Church Academy, North Somerset
- North Cadbury CE Primary School, Somerset
- Preston CE Primary School, Somerset
- Wraxall CE Primary School, North Somerset

- All Saints CE Primary School, Montacute, Somerset
- Churchfield Church School, Somerset
- Holy Trinity Church School, Yeovil, Somerset
- St Andrew's CE Primary School, Bath, Bath and NE Somerset
- Shepton Beauchamp CE Primary School, Somerset
- St John and St Francis Church School, Somerset
- St John the Evangelist Church School, North Somerset
- St Mary and St Peter's CE Primary School, Somerset
- St Mark's Church School, WSM (Joint Anglican & Methodist), North Somerset
- Buckland Newton CE Primary School, Dorset
- Charlton Horethorne CE Primary School, Somerset
- Motcombe CE Primary School, Dorset
- Okeford Fitzpaine CE Primary School, Dorset
- Shaftesbury School, Dorset
- Shaftesbury CE Primary School, Dorset
- Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School, Dorset
- Shillingstone CE Primary School, Dorset
- St Andrew's CE Primary School, Yetminster, Dorset
- St Andrew's CE Primary School, Fontmell Magna, Dorset
- St Mary's CE Primary School, Bradford Abbas, Dorset
- St. Mary the Virgin CE Primary School, Gillingham, Dorset
- The Gryphon School, Dorset
- Thornford CE Primary School, Dorset
- All Saints CE Academy, Dorset
- All Saints CE Academy, Plymouth
- St Martin's CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Braddock CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Quethiock CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Antony CE Primary School, Cornwall
- St Nicolas CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Millbrook CE Primary School, Cornwall
- Bishop Wordsworth's CE Grammar School, Wiltshire
- St Mark's School Bath, Bath and NE Somerset
- West Monkton Primary CE VC School, Somerset
- Ruishton Primary CE VC School, Bath and NE Somerset
- North Curry CE Primary School, Somerset
- Selwood Academy, Somerset
- Tickenham CE Primary School, North Somerset
- St Osmund's CE Middle School, Dorset
- Burton Bradstock CE Primary School, Dorset
- St Mary's CE Primary School, Dorset
- St Uny CE Academy, Cornwall
- Christian Malford CE Primary School, Wiltshire
- Fishponds CE Academy, Bristol
- Kingfisher CE Academy, Swindon
- Seagry CE Primary School, Wiltshire

- Somerfords' Walter Powell CE Academy, Wiltshire
- St Leonards CE Primary Academy, Swindon
- St Peters CE Academy, Wiltshire
- Galmpton CE Primary, Torbay
- Mrs Ethelstons CE Primary, Devon
- St Andrew's CE Primary Chardstock, Devon
- St Helen's CE Primary, Devon
- The Clinton CE Primary, Devon
- Lady Swards CE Primary, Devon
- Rockbeare CE Primary, Devon
- Sidmouth CE Primary, Devon
- Pilton Bluecoat CE Junior, Devon
- All Saints CE Primary Axminster, Devon
- All Saints CE Primary Babbacombe, Torbay
- Beer CE Primary, Devon
- Lady Modifords CE Primary, Devon
- Meavy CE Primary, Devon
- St George's CE Primary Plymouth, Plymouth
- St Marychurch CE Primary, Torbay
- St Peter's CE Junior Tavistock, Devon
- St Rumons CE Infants, Devon
- Whitesheet CE Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- Southbroom St James Academy, Wiltshire
- Beaminster St Mary's Academy, Dorset
- Dunbury CE Academy, Dorset
- Archbishop Wake CE Primary School, Dorset
- Blandford St Mary CE Primary School, Dorset
- Spetisbury CE VA Primary School, Dorset
- St Bartholomew's Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- The Trinity CE Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- Marden Vale CE Academy, Wiltshire
- Trent Young's CE Primary School, Dorset
- Shrewton CE Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- Beechcroft St Pauls CE Primary School, Dorset
- St Andrew's CE Primary School, Dorset
- St John's CE Primary School, Dorset
- St. Peter's CE Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- Wilton CE Primary School, Wiltshire
- Milldown CE Academy, Dorset
- Loders CE Primary Academy, Dorset
- Marshwood CE Primary Academy, Dorset
- Baden Powell and St Peter's CE Junior School, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Lilliput CE Infant School, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Longfleet CE Primary School, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- St Mark's Swanage CE Primary School, Dorset
- Puddletown CE First School, Dorset

- St Mary's CE Middle School, Dorset
- Seend CE Primary School, Wiltshire
- Bishops Cannings CE (Aided) Primary School, Wiltshire
- Rushall CE Primary School, Wiltshire
- Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy, Wiltshire
- King Ina CE Juniors Academy, Somerset
- King Ina Infants Academy, Somerset
- Keevil CE Primary School, Wiltshire
- St Michael's CE Primary Academy, Devon
- Draycott and Rodney Stoke CE First School, Somerset
- South Wilts Grammar School, Wiltshire
- Emmanuel CE Middle School, Dorset
- St John's CE First School, Dorset
- St Michael's CE Middle School, Dorset
- Witchampton CE First School, Dorset

## **Projects listed on the published draft agenda but were removed before the meeting**

- Whether to approve a significant change application for Windmill Hill Academy, **Cornwall** to change their age-range from 4-11 to 2-11 – removed as the Trust has withdrawn their application
- Whether to approve a significant change application for Park Road Support Centre Frome, **Somerset** to join St Dunstan's School – removed as the necessary papers were not ready. This will be brought to a future HTB meeting