



Department  
for Education

## Notes of Meeting, East of England and North East London headteacher board

21 January 2021

### 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

- Sue Baldwin (RSC)

### Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Tom Canning (HTB)
- Caroline Derbyshire (HTB)
- Diane Rochford (HTB)
- Al Kingsley (HTB)
- Karen Kerridge (HTB)
- Duncan Ramsey (HTB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (HTB)

### DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative

### Apologies

- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)
- Brian Conway (HTB)

## General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

### RSC update

- The Note of Meeting for the December HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- No representations have been received for any projects on this meeting's agenda.
- The RSC and Board took time for reflections and arising issues in respective organisations and wider networks, with a particular focus on attendance of vulnerable children.

## 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 Changes

**Project:** William Law Church of England Primary School, **Peterborough**, to transfer from William Law Church of England Primary School Trust to Peterborough Diocese Education Trust.

#### HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard about the background of the voluntary transfer including that the single academy trust (SAT) board agreed to join a multi-academy trust following the current CEO's upcoming retirement in the summer term.
- The Board noted that multiple trust options were considered by the SAT before they chose PDET as the best fit due to a shared Christian ethos and strong background in primary provision.
- The Board and RSC agreed with the assessment that the school joining the trust would be mutually beneficial and commended the collaborative partnership.
- No concerns were expressed and the HTB fully endorsed the RSC's decision to approve the transfer.

**RSC decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

## Significant Changes

**Project:** The Cam Academy Trust to change the existing age ranges of Hartford Infant School, Huntingdon and Gamlingay Village Primary, Gamlingay.

**HTB discussion:**

- The Board discussed the background to Cam Academy Trust's proposal to change the age ranges in Gamlingay Village Primary and Hartford Infant School to allow local access to early years provision.
- The HTB questioned whether there would be a potential risk of capacity and viability issues with other existing provisions. The Board were assured that the LA had considered this and indicated there is a need for early years provision, as well as a new housing development which should bring in further demand and prevent pupil displacement.
- The HTB had no further concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

**Project:** The Rosary Trust – A Catholic Multi Academy to lower the age range from 5-11 to 2-11 in St Clare's Catholic Primary School, Tendring.

**HTB discussion:**

- The Board heard the background to The Rosary Trust's proposal to change the age range in St Clare's Catholic Primary School, including it receiving full support from the LA and Diocese and how funding has been secured from the Department for Education.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

**Project:** Leading Learning Trust to change the existing age range from 3-11 to 2-11 years old in Portway Primary School, Newham.

**HTB discussion:**

- The Board acknowledged the background to Leading Learning Trust's proposal to change the existing age range in Portway Primary School, in order to increase the pupil numbers on roll and help address the shortfall of early years provision in the local area.
- The HTB had no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.