



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

15 December 2022

Attendance

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

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Rama Venchard
- Emma Bradshaw
- Gill Ball
- Penny Barratt
- Cassie Buchanan
- Vanessa Ogden
- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Susan Douglas

Guests

- None.

Apologies

- None.

DfE senior civil servants

- Anna Barker

- Alan Parnum

Representations received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

General Discussion Points

RD update

- RD welcomed members.
- Previous minutes – to clarify conditions to Christ the Redeemer Catholic Education Trust project.

School Resource Management (SRM) Programme

- The SRM offer has been designed in partnership with the sector to help schools and academy trusts get the best value from their resources and therefore maximise the impact on pupil outcomes. The support is free and available to all state funded schools. The programme started in 2016, investing in current and future leaders.
- AB provided feedback on SRM offer.

Local Update

- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Croydon
- Greenwich

AB member reflections

- Discussed pressures in Sutton on pupil place planning compared to neighbouring boroughs. Noted planning permission constraints was a variable for PPP.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, Hammersmith & Fulham, to become an academy and join St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: St John's XXIII Catholic Primary School (Ofsted Outstanding 2022) is a two-form entry Voluntary Aided Catholic primary school in the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. As well as having an on-site nursery the school also offers provision for pupils with SEND and caters for additional needs associated with autism spectrum disorder.

The school has applied to convert to academy status and join St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust

Noted that the diocese of Westminster is fully supportive of the proposal.

St John XXIII is a feeder school for Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC school which is already part of the trust.

Discussed challenges around pupil numbers at the school.

Noted that the trust concluded an SRMA visit.

Governance at the MAT has been stable since it came into operation in September 2021.

The headteacher will continue with her executive headship at Rosary Catholic Primary School post conversion which will see her spend 2 ½ days at the school per week, the Diocese are supportive of this agreement.

AB members would like to hear more regarding Catholic strategy and in particular how it will include vulnerable schools.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Invite Catholic diocese of Westminster to a future AB.

Project: Conatus Federation (Boxgrove Primary School and Kidbrooke Park Primary School), Greenwich, to become academies and join Compass Partnership of Schools trust.

AB discussion: Boxgrove Primary School and Kidbrooke Park Primary School form the Conatus Federation under one Executive Head. Both schools are rated Good by Ofsted and are inclusive with a Behaviour Support Unit at Kidbrooke Park.

Noted existing collaboration between the federation and The Compass Partnership. AB discussed trust's track record for school improvement and capacity to develop the schools.

Noted that the CEO of Compass is a member of Boxgrove Primary School's governing body.

Questions raised around financial contributions from schools in addition to the annual top slice.

Noted that ESFA have not raised any concerns regarding trust finance.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts:

Further actions required: Recommendation for an SRMA visit.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Woodcote High School (SAT), Croydon, to join The Collegiate Trust (MAT)

AB discussion: Woodcote High School is a large secondary school (with 6th form) based within the Borough of Croydon. It is a mixed 11-19 academy with current capacity at 1283 and NOR at 1242.

The school converted to an academy, as a single academy trust in 2012 and was judged Good by Ofsted. A section 8 inspection was carried out in February 2022 (with no formal designation).

AB discussed school governance and compliance.

Noted that The Collegiate Trust has already developed a strong relationship with the school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Due diligence by the trust on any financial impact of the transfer.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings.

Project: The Michael Tippett School, Lambeth to join London South East Academies Trust – sponsor funding route

Decision type: Sponsor funding route

RD decision: Approve first year action plan, full sponsor funding and EIG to London South East Academies Trust, to support the academy conversion of The Michael Tippett School.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None