



Department  
for Education

## Notes of Meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board

17 January 2024.

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

Advisory Board 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

- Kate Copley (Regional Director, East Midlands Regions Group).
- Carol Gray (Regional Director, East Midlands Regions Group).

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Paul West.
- Sian Hampton.
- Mark Thomas.
- Inderjit Sandhu.
- Paul Heery.
- Sarah Armitage.
- Julian Scholefield.
- Chris Wheatley.

### Guests

- None.

### Apologies

- None.

### DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes (Deputy Director, East Midlands Regions Group).

- ESFA representative.

## Representations received

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

## General Discussion Points

No discussion points were raised.

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** To discuss St John's CofE Primary School, Nottinghamshire, converting to join Archway Learning Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

St John's CofE Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join Archway Learning Trust. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. Ofsted last inspected the school (short inspection) in February 2019. The school continues to be good.

As a Church of England school, Archway Learning Trust is one of the 5 MAT options within the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese for the school to join. The school has been working with the trust already as part of outreach work and can see the level of support offered and the benefit to the school.

St John's CofE Primary School joining the trust enables the formation of a group of primaries that can collaborate, as well as work with the wider trust to drive school improvement.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Archway Learning Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sian Hampton – CEO of Archway Learning Trust. Sian was not present for this part of the discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School, Nottinghamshire, converting to join Minster Trust for Education.

### **AB discussion:**

Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join Minster Trust for Education. A resolution has been passed by the school's

governing body. The school was rated good by Ofsted following an inspection in November 2019 and is a larger than average-sized junior school. It is already part of the Minster Learning Alliance.

The school has been collaborating closely with Minster Trust for Education since October 2022 which has included supportive reviews, continuing professional development, and performance management activities, among others.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Minster Trust for Education and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sian Hampton - CEO of Archway Learning Trust. Archway Learning Trust is part of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, as is Minster Trust for Education. Sian was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Kirklington Primary School, Nottinghamshire, converting to join Minster Trust for Education.

**AB discussion:**

Kirklington Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join Minster Trust for Education. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. The school was inspected in January 2023 (section 8), and it continues to be a good school.

Kirklington Primary School feeds into The Minster School, which is part of the Minster Trust for Education, and is the lead school of the Minster Learning Alliance. The school already has a strong and positive relationship with the trust and its academies, and they want to take the next step to formally join the trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Minster Trust for Education and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sian Hampton - CEO of Archway Learning Trust. Archway Learning Trust is part of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, as is Minster Trust for Education. Sian was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Ashbourne Primary School, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Ashbourne Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, along with 5 other schools, to form a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. This new trust will work alongside the Diocese of Derby, with majority faith articles, and will include both faith and non-faith schools.

Ashbourne Primary School is a community school located in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. The school was rated good by Ofsted in January 2022. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuing professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Bradley CofE Primary School, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Bradley CofE Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. Bradley CofE Primary School is voluntary controlled school in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It was rated good by Ofsted in January 2019. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. The Diocese of Derby has indicated that they support the conversion of Bradley CofE Primary School and the creation of ACE Derbyshire Trust.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuing professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Brailsford CofE Primary School, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Brailsford CofE Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. Brailsford CofE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It was rated good by Ofsted in February 2019. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. The Diocese of Derby has indicated that they support the conversion of Brailsford CofE Primary School and the creation of ACE Derbyshire Trust.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority-faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuing professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Morley Primary school, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Morley Primary school seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. Morley Primary School is a community school in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Ofsted last inspected the school in 2012 and judged it to be outstanding. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority-faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuing professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Norbury CofE Primary School, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Norbury CofE Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. Norbury CofE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school in Ashbourne. The school was rated good across all sub-judgements at its last full inspection in 2014 and was found to have maintained standards in a 2018 short inspection. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. The Diocese of Derby has indicated that they support the conversion of Norbury CofE Primary School and the creation of ACE Derbyshire Trust.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority-faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuing professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Hulland CofE Primary School, Derbyshire, converting to academy status and forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust.

**AB discussion:**

Hulland CofE Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status, forming a new trust – ACE Derbyshire Trust. Hulland CofE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. In June 2023, at a short inspection, the school was rated by Ofsted as continuing to be good. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. The Diocese of Derby has indicated that they support the conversion of Hulland CofE Primary School and the creation of ACE Derbyshire Trust.

There is a clear strategic and geographic need for a new Diocese of Derby majority faith multi-academy trust, particularly along the western borders of Derbyshire. All schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust's proposed growth pipeline are within 45 minutes of one another.

The schools within ACE Derbyshire Trust have been working as a cluster since 2015, providing and procuring shared continuous professional development for school leaders and staff at all levels. Curriculum coordinators work together across the schools, as do EYFS leads and SENCOs.

ACE Derbyshire Trust will partner with strong trusts operating in the area to enable effective and impactful support for all schools and their intention is to support schools in the future judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance to be in place at ACE Derbyshire Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sarah Armitage – Chair of Trustees at Embark Federation. Embark Federation is providing advisory support to ACE Derbyshire Trust. Sarah was not present for this discussion, nor was she in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Bakewell Methodist Academy.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 1 February 2024.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

**Project:** To discuss the transfer of St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy (single-academy trust), Leicestershire, to Embrace Multi Academy Trust.

**AB discussion:**

St Peter's Church of England Primary Academy converted to academy status as a single-academy trust on 1 December 2012 and has now voluntarily applied to join Embrace Multi



Academy Trust.

The school was rated good at its last Ofsted full inspection in June 2014 and, following a short inspection in November 2023, it continues to be good.

After considering the options available to it as a faith school, the academy's trust board felt Embrace Multi Academy Trust was the best fit due to its geographical location and demonstrating it could provide the financial support the school needs.

A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body.

The transfer is supported by the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education which provided consent on 7 June 2023.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Embrace Multi Academy Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the trusts and Leicestershire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss the transfer of Cobden Primary School & Community Centre (single-academy trust), Leicestershire to Bradgate Education Partnership.

**AB discussion:**

Cobden Primary School & Community Centre converted to academy status as a single-academy trust in March 2013 and has now voluntarily applied to join Bradgate Education Partnership.

The school was rated good in its last 3 Ofsted inspections (July 2023, May 2018 and September 2014).

A resolution has been passed by Cobden's trust board.

After considering a number of trusts, the board approached Bradgate Education Partnership to explore how a permanent arrangement could work. Following discussions, Cobden Primary School & Community Centre agreed to enter into a trust partnership arrangement via a Service Level Agreement with Bradgate Education Partnership for the 2022/23 academic year. During that period, positive working relationships were established and the trustees at Cobden now wish to make this a permanent arrangement.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Bradgate Education Partnership and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the trusts and Leicestershire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss the transfer of Mountfields Lodge School (single-academy trust), Leicestershire to Bradgate Education Partnership.

**AB discussion:**

Mountfields Lodge School converted to academy status as a single-academy trust in December 2012 and has now voluntarily applied to join Bradgate Education Partnership.

The predecessor school was rated good in March 2012. Mountfields Lodge School continues to be a good school in its last 2 Ofsted section 8 inspections. The most recent section 8 inspection was in March 2022.

In March 2023, the trustees chose Bradgate Education Partnership as their preferred trust, following a period of due diligence. The decision was based upon locality, the educational offer and ethos. The trustees of Mountfields Lodge then formally voted to join Bradgate Education Partnership on 9 October 2023.

During the academic year of 2022/2023, Mountfields Lodge School began informal collaboration with Bradgate Education Partnership. This informal arrangement allowed Mountfields Lodge School to begin building a strong relationship with Bradgate Education Partnership and inform their decision-making process when selecting which trust to join. Mountfields Lodge School and Bradgate Education Partnership have continued their informal arrangement for the 2023/2024 academic year.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Bradgate Education Partnership and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the trusts and Leicestershire County Council of the decision.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

**Project:** To discuss the physical expansion at Outwood Academy Portand, Nottinghamshire, to increase capacity from 1,779 to 2,079.

**Decision type:** Significant Change.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

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