



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: East Midlands Advisory Board

16 July 2025.

Advice

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence. The views of members that sent in advice are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD)

- Carol Gray.

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Ash Rahman
- Chris Wheatley
- Mark Thomas
- Paul Heery
- Sian Hampton

Decisions

Leicestershire

Trust Changes

Project: An application for Foxbridge Primary School, URN:149040, Glenfield Primary School, URN:140608 and Launde Primary School, URN:139751, Leicestershire, to transfer from Scholars Academy Trust to Flying High Trust.

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

Scholars Academy Trust is a three-school primary trust in Leicestershire, comprising Foxbridge Primary School, Glenfield Primary School, and Launde Primary School. The trust was established in 2013 and has recently undergone leadership changes.

The trust has determined that it is no longer viable to continue operating independently and has chosen Flying High Trust as the preferred destination trust.

Flying High Trust is a large, established primary-focused multi-academy trust with 35 schools across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Nottingham. It has a strong track record of school improvement and the capacity to provide the necessary support to the 3 incoming schools.

The transfer is supported by both trusts' boards, with resolutions passed and stakeholder engagement underway. The High-Quality Trust Framework was applied to assess the proposal, and Flying High Trust was found to meet the strategic needs of the schools and the local area. The transfer will also create a new Leicestershire hub for Flying High Trust, bringing additional capacity into the region.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Chris Wheatley. Chris is the CEO of Flying High Trust. Chris was not in receipt of project papers and did not offer advice by correspondence.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the trusts and to Leicestershire County Council.

North Northamptonshire

Trust Changes

Project: A proposal for Manor School, URN:137613, North Northamptonshire, to transfer from Nene Education Trust to Meridian Trust.

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

Manor School is a secondary academy in North Northamptonshire with 1,007 pupils aged 11 to 19. It was judged to be inadequate by Ofsted in July 2024. Following publication of the Ofsted report in October 2024, a Termination Warning Notice was issued to the trust in November 2024. The school had previously been rated good, most recently in March 2020.

The school has been operating as the only secondary in Nene Education Trust, which otherwise comprises primary schools. Following consideration of the trust's representations, the Regional Director decided to transfer Manor School to a new sponsor to secure rapid and sustainable improvement.

Meridian Trust was selected as the incoming trust following an assessment against the High-Quality Trust Framework. Meridian is a large trust with 30 schools, including 12 secondaries. It has a strong track record of school improvement, with 16 schools improving their Ofsted rating since joining the trust. Three of its secondaries—The Ferrers School, Sawtry Village Academy, and Sharnbrook Academy—are within 20 miles of the Manor School and have all improved under Meridian's leadership.

The trust has a well-developed school improvement model and a strong SEND support network.

Manor School will benefit from Meridian's established secondary networks, curriculum alignment, and SEND expertise. The trust has developed a tailored support plan for the school.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to both trusts and to North Northamptonshire County Council.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Wadsworth Fields Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 1 August 2025.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Kinoulton Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 1 August 2025.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Hunloke Park Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 1 August 2025.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Duckmanton Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 1 August 2025.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for Bracebridge Infant and Nursery School (single-academy trust), URN:139142, Lincolnshire, to make the following change: To change the age range from ages 3-7 to 2-7.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school, trust and to Lincolnshire Local Authority.

Project: An application for Ingoldmells Academy (Greenwood Academies Trust), URN:138444, Lincolnshire, to make the following change: To change the age range from 2-11 to 3-11.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school, trust and to Lincolnshire Local Authority.

Project: An application for Nethergate Academy (Greenwood Academies Trust), URN:137915, Nottingham, to make the following change: Acquiring a satellite site to provide an additional 24 post-16 places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school, trust and to Nottingham Local Authority.

Project: An application for Uplands Infant School (Attenborough Learning Trust), URN:146853, Leicester, to make the following change: To change the age range from 3-7 to 2-7.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school, trust and to Leicester Local Authority.