



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: West Midlands Advisory Board

Date of planned meeting: 17 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)

- Jonathan Duff – Interim Regional Director

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Mike Donoghue
- Guy Shears
- Amarjit Cheema
- Sarah Finch
- Dan Parkes
- Steve Taylor

Decisions

Warwickshire

Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

Project: Callendar Farm Primary School, Warwickshire

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Overall, the West Midlands Advisory Board members were supportive of this project.
- The Advisory Board members acknowledged the recent appointment of a CEO and the trust's current growth priorities as important considerations. However, they were reassured by the appointed CEO's experience, which they felt would provide strong leadership and help mitigate potential risks associated with the project.
- There were also comments around primary expertise, the nursery provision, trust capacity and the financial plan in place.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Maureen Brennan did not receive papers for this item due to a professional connection.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Shropshire

Trust changes

Project: A proposal for Clive CofE Primary School (URN 148505), Shropshire, to transfer from Fields Multi Academy Trust to The 3-18 Education trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: A proposal for Prees CofE Primary School (URN 143323), Shropshire, to transfer from Fields Multi Academy Trust to The 3-18 Education trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: A proposal for Whixall CofE Primary School (URN 143325), Shropshire, to transfer from Fields Multi Academy Trust to The 3-18 Education trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: Holy Trinity Church of England Academy and Nursery (URN 144460), Shropshire

- To establish a SEN unit or resourced provision, initially offering 12 places in 2025 – 2026, increasing to 16 in 2026 – 2027.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Greenacres Primary School (URN 145793), Shropshire

- To establish a SEN unit or resourced provision at Greenacres Primary School offering a 16-place provision with places commissioned by the local authority.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Longlands Primary School and Nursery (URN 141368), Shropshire

- To establish a SEN unit or resourced provision at Longlands Primary School, initially offering 12 places in the first year. The school will then review the provision, with the potential to expand to 16 places, supported by the availability of both KS1 and KS2 classrooms.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Worcestershire

Trust changes

Project: A proposal for The Vaynor First School (URN 137960), Worcestershire, to transfer from Endeavour Schools Trust to The Shires Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: A proposal for Crabbs Cross Academy (URN 139825), Worcestershire, to transfer from Endeavour Schools Trust to The Shires Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: A proposal for St George's CofE First School and Nursery (URN 146754), Worcestershire, to transfer from Endeavour Schools Trust to The Shires Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: A proposal for St Luke's CofE First School (URN 150742), Worcestershire, to transfer from Endeavour Schools Trust to The Shires Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: St Peter's Catholic First School (URN 141066), Worcestershire

- To lower its age range from 5 to 9 to 3 to 9 years old.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Matchborough First School Academy (URN 140309), Worcestershire

- To add an SEN unit with provision for 10-12 pupils between the ages of 4-9.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Warwickshire

Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

Project: A proposal for a sponsor for Callendar Farm Primary School, Warwickshire.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Significant changes

Project: Etone College (URN 137771), Warwickshire

- To increase their Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 180.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Brooke School (URN 145200), Warwickshire

- To increase its planned number of places from 197 to 245.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Stoke-on-Trent

Significant changes

Project: The Discovery Academy (URN 136681), Stoke-on-Trent

- To add a Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit or resourced provision to the mainstream academy.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: The Crescent Academy (URN 138551), Stoke-on-Trent

- To establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) unit.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Staffordshire

Project: Wightwick Hall School (URN 144209), Staffordshire

- To increase its number of places from to 160 to 180.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Chadsmead Primary Academy (URN 144498), Staffordshire

- To extend its age range to include nursery provision for 2-year-old children.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Wolverhampton

Trust changes

Project: An application from Westacre Infant School (URN 104312), Wolverhampton, to convert and become an academy and join Lykos Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre (URN 142123), Wolverhampton

- A capacity expansion from 55 to 75 full-time places.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Northwood Park Primary School (URN 141648), Wolverhampton

- To increase its physical capacity by more than 30 places.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Sandwell

Sponsored academy orders

Project: A proposal for Fioretti Trust to sponsor Christ Church CofE Primary School (URN 103997), Sandwell.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Birmingham

Significant changes

Project: The Nethersole CofE Academy (URN 139127), Birmingham

- To open a resourced provision for Communication and Interaction needs for ages 4 - 11.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Hallmoor School (URN 144336), Birmingham

- A capacity increase to 290 places, including 56 sixth form places.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: St Georges Church of England Primary School (URN 139267), Birmingham

- The opening of nursery provision for 3- and 4-year-olds, set to launch in September 2025. Making the new age range 3-11 years.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Woodside Primary School (URN 140153), Birmingham

- The integration of nursery provision for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Walsall

Significant changes

Project: The Ladder School (URN 143750), Walsall

- To increase the planned places to a total of 162 (138 pre 16 places and 24 post 16 SEN places).

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Walsall Studio School (URN 139789), Walsall

- To add a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP).

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

