



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: South East Advisory Board

16 September 2025

Advice

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence, with a further discussion on item 1.1. The views of members are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD)

- Kate Dethridge

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Sue Samson
- Claire Lowe
- Paul James
- Stuart Gardner
- Sarah Bennett
- Sarah Brown

Kent, Medway and Surrey

Trust Changes

Project: Sandwich Technology School, Kent, to join Inicio Educational Trust (SAT to MAT)

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Significant geographical distance between Inicio and Sandwich Technology school is a major concern risking less effective support.
- There is a lack of prior experience in turning around schools in special measures.
- Limited evidence of experience of working with highly deprived communities in selective areas.
- School improvement approach appears generic and not tailored to the specific challenges of the school.
- Some progress has been noted by Ofsted since Inicio began supporting Sandwich in January 2025 but, as per the May 2025 Ofsted monitoring report, more work is required for the school to no longer be judged as requiring special measures.
- A further monitoring inspection took place in September; the RD decided to defer a final decision until she has had the opportunity to review Ofsted's findings to inform this decision.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: There were no conflicts of interest for this item.

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter Academy Order

Project: Guston Church of England Primary School, Kent, to convert and join Aquila, The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Project: William Cobbett Primary School, Surrey, to convert and Weydon Multi Academy Trust

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority.

Project: Woodlands Special School, Surrey, to convert and join Bourne Education Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority.

Project: St James' Church of England Aided Primary School, Surrey, to convert and join the Good Shepherd Trust

Decision: Approved.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Trust Changes

Project: The Workplace, East Sussex, to transfer from The Sabden Multi Academy Trust to London South East Academies Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority.

Project: Southborough High School, East Sussex, to merge to Learning Partners Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority

Significant Change

Project: Darley Dene Primary School, Lumen Learning Trust, Surrey, to make the following changes:

- Changing the type of SEN provision a SEN unit or resourced provision offers

Decision: Decline

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority.

Project: Moulsecomb Primary School, The Pioneer Academy, Brighton and Hove, to make the following changes:

- Adding a SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school/trust and local authority.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

Significant Change

Project: Wren School, Excalibur Academies Trust, Reading, to make the following changes:

- Adding a SEN unit or resourced provision

Reason for removal: Papers were not ready on time.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Brooklands Farm Primary School, Inspiring Futures Through Learning, Buckinghamshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

Chandlers Field Primary School, Leo Academy Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

Hunnyhill Primary School, Ormiston Academies Trust, Isle of Wight.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

St Lawrence CofE (Aided) Primary School, Learning Partners Church Academy Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St Nicolas CofE Aided Infant School, Enlighten Learning Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St Richard's Catholic College, Bosco Catholic Education Trust, East Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Woodeaton Manor School, The Propeller Academy Trust, Oxfordshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

List of academies approved to open on 1st September 2025

Farncombe Church of England Infant School, Learning Partners Church Academy Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Grazeley Parochial Church of England Aided Primary School, The Keys Academy Trust, Berkshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Grovelands Community Primary School, Wandle Learning Trust, East Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

Hellingly Community Primary School, Wandle Learning Trust, East Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, and local authority.

Horsell CofE Aided Junior School, Learning Partners Church Academy Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

Nyewood CofE Infant School, Bognor Regis, Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership, West Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St Mark's Church of England Aided Primary School, The Prospect Trust, Hampshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St Peter's Centre, The Goldfinch Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St Thomas More Roman Catholic Primary School, Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership, Kent.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

St William of Perth Roman Catholic Primary School, Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership, Kent.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

The College of Richard Collyer In Horsham, Horsham Learning Alliance, West Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.

The Forest School, Horsham Learning Alliance, West Sussex.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: Inform the school/trust, diocese and local authority.