



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: East of England

Date of meeting: 20 November 2025

Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but sent comments on agenda items are listed under the apologies section. These members' views are reflected in the discussions below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Jonathan Duff

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Lawrence Chapman
- Mark Farmer
- Clare Flintoff
- Al Kingsley
- Adrian Rogers
- Sarah Skinner
- Josephine Valentine

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- None

General discussion points

- The Regional Director gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board considered Ofsted judgement outcomes for the previous two months.

Decisions

Norfolk

Trust Changes

Project: An application for Inclusive Schools Trust, Norfolk, to transfer into Clarion Corvus Trust

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- The board heard a voluntary application from Inclusive Schools Trust to merge with Clarion Corvus Trust.
- The board discussed that both trusts have a similar ethos and it would be a mutually beneficial merger which would provide additional capacity and stability across the new trust.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: There were no conflicts of interest.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the trusts of the decision.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application to consider a retrospective change for Weatherfield Academy [URN: 137896], Weatherfield Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to increase its pupil numbers from 133 to 167 pupils.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application from St John Rigby Catholic Primary School [URN: 139515], Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, Bedfordshire, to change its age range from 5-11 to 3-11 to facilitate a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for Maylandsea Primary School [URN:142254], Quantum MAT, Essex, to open a resourced provision for up to 20 pupils with autism, from Reception to Year 6.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for Holywell School [URN: 138844], Holywell Church of England Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to change its age range from 9-13 to 11-16 from 2026.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for the Watford Grammar School for Girls [URN: 136289], Watford Grammar School for Girls, Hertfordshire, to change its capacity from 1310 to 1451 through the construction of a new teaching block on site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for Kings Ford Academy [URN: 142001], Inspires MAT, Essex, to add a specialist resource base of 8 places to the mainstream academy.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for Acle Academy [URN: 138758], The Wensum Trust, Norfolk, to add a specialist resource base for 10 pupils.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

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

Trust changes

Project: An application for Ormiston Park Academy [URN: 135960], Thurrock, to transfer from Ormiston Academies Trust into Unity Schools Partnership.

Reason for removal: The project has been withdrawn by Ormiston Academies Trust.