



## 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.

© Crown copyright 2025