



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: South East Advisory Board

16 December 2025

Advice

AB advice was sought by correspondence. 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 Brown

Kent, Medway and Surrey

Trust Changes

Project: An application for the merger of The Prospect Trust, Hampshire, and Weydon Multi Academy Trust, Surrey.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board reviewed performance of the academies within Weydon MAT (WMAT) in light of their context
- The board noted both trusts' healthy financial positions.
- The board discussed WMAT's school improvement strategy (including support for the sixth form college) and relevant staffing, and recommended the RD seek further detail on the SI strategy.
- The board discussed WMAT's capacity and appetite to take on challenging and rural schools in future and consider a period of consolidation post-merger to ensure the new MAT was established well.
- Overall, the board was supportive of the proposed merger of two strong trusts.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the schools, trusts and local authority.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter Academy Order

Project: Robert Piggot Church of England Infant School, Wokingham, to convert and join Agape Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Robert Piggot Church of England Junior School, Wokingham, to convert and join Agape Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Spinfield School, Buckinghamshire, to convert and join Marlow Education Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant Change

Project: Arbour Vale School, Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Slough, to make the following changes:

- Acquiring an additional (satellite) site

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Jubilee Primary School, Jubilee Primary Trust, Kent, to make the following changes:

- Change of age range (including adding or removing a nursery or sixth form provision)

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None.

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

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

John Rankin Infant and Nursery School, Maiden Erlegh Trust, Berkshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

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

John Rankin Junior School, Maiden Erlegh Trust, Berkshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

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

Manor Mead School, United Learning Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

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

Regents Park Community College, United Learning Trust, Hampshire.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

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

Walton Leigh School, London South East Academies Trust, Surrey.

Points raised: N/A.

Conflicts: None.

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

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