

IET Schools & Colleges Board Autumn 2025

- Title:** IET Schools & Colleges Board Autumn 2025
- Date:** 17 November 2025
- Venue:** Local Government Association 18 Smith Square
- Chair:** Secretary of State for Education
- IET Members:** Association of Colleges
Association of School and College Leaders
Catholic Education Service
Church of England National Society for Education
Community
Confederation of School Trusts
Department for Education
GMB
Union
LGA
NAHT
NASUWT
NEOST
NEU
SFCA
UCU
Unison
Unite
- Observing:** Minister for School Standards
- DfE Secretariat:** Board Secretary
Secretary of State's Private Office
IET Subgroup Chairs
Officials
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Meeting summary

Introductions & administrative business

The board approved the note of the July meeting, noting that all actions have been taken forwards.

The Board Secretary provided updates on the annual evaluation of IET and noted that recruitment was open for DfE's Teacher Reference Group.

Strategic updates

The Chair introduced the section on strategic updates and the Board Secretary invited the Minister for School Standards and the relevant DfE Officials to share updates on the government's Opportunity Mission and strategy, and on work towards the upcoming Schools White Paper, the post-16 white paper and the Curriculum and Assessment Review (including the government response).

Subgroup Updates

Accountability

The Accountability Subgroup updated the board and reflected on discussions around inspection reform and implementation. They also presented on parental complaints, outlining the problem diagnoses and proposed responses as recommendations for the board. In addition, the subgroup highlighted parallel work on guidance for parents too.

The board approved the recommendations on parental complaints and asked for work to be done on accountability mapping.

Workforce

The Workforce Subgroup provided an update on the package of policy options approved by the board at its spring meeting.

The Workforce Subgroup is delivering actions agreed in April; with, to date, a third having been completed or closed. The subgroup also discussed proposals for future work surrounding the use of tech / AI in schools.

The board welcomed this progress update and agreed the 2026 workforce plan.

SEND

The SEND subgroup confirmed that previous work has fed into the ongoing reform agenda. They are currently working across three areas: the SENCO role and the future of its functions this term, proposing to look at the CPD offer next term, and teaching assistants in the summer.

The board agreed the workplan and challenged the subgroup to consider the sequencing of the work for maximum impact in the context of the Schools White Paper.

Temperature check / forward look: what do IET members' members want?

The Board discussed their members views and future wishes for the direction of IET in 2026. Members agreed that relationships have improved through the work of the group, talked about the significance of the big publications setting out strategic direction for the system (the CAR, the post-16 white paper, the schools white paper, as well as wider pieces of work such as the child poverty strategy), eagerness to celebrate the good things that schools and colleges (and all their staff) do, and the importance of AI / tech for the future of the system.

Concluding remarks

The Board Secretary thanked attendees for an intense and productive meeting and agreement on those board papers and confirmed the next meeting will take place in the second half of next term

Actions

- The IET Secretariat to publish the agreed public note of the July meeting.
- The Minister for School Standards asked IET members to help get the engagement message out across their members on the SWP.
- The Minister for School Standards asked to attend the IET SEND subgroup to discuss SEND proposals and principles.
- The board approved the recommendations on parental complaints.
- The subgroups will take their agreed workplans forward, informed by Board feedback
- IET members asked for a wider conversation about AI and tech and the future of education.