



Department
for Education

IET schools and colleges board: spring 2026

Meeting details

Date: 10 March 2026

Venue: Grey Coat Hospital School, London

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

LGA

NAHT

NASUWT

NEU

UCU

Unison

Unite

Apologies

NEOST

SFCA

DfE secretariat

Board secretary

Secretary of State's private office

IET subgroup chairs

Officials

Meeting summary

Introductions and administrative business

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

Future IET priorities

The IET Board met to discuss next steps for the Schools White Paper, the Post-16 White Paper and future priorities for the group. The Secretary of State set out the importance of the upcoming period as major reforms move toward delivery. Members welcomed the strategic direction but emphasised the importance of building trust, amidst highlighting pressures on workforce capacity, funding and implementation.

Board members discussed the need for:

- a clear sequence for how reforms will roll out
- a strong narrative for the sector and parents
- continued focus on early years, inclusion and transition points between education stages

The Secretary of State emphasised the importance of rebuilding trust, improving consistency, and ensuring high expectations for all children. She committed to providing regular updates to the board on schools white paper and SEND implementation.

Subgroup updates

Accountability

Work will continue on school profiles, parental complaints and pupil engagement, alongside wider work on the accountability system.

Workforce

The subgroup reported on progress relating to teacher retention, generative artificial intelligence (AI) and technology, support staff and guidance for the workforce. Further work will focus on workforce capacity, FE workforce challenges and ensuring reforms are supported by practical delivery planning.

SEND

The subgroup is progressing work on the functions needed for an inclusive system, including the future of SENCO responsibilities.

Concluding remarks

The Secretary of State thanked members for their continued engagement. Officials will return with proposals on future IET structures, and an early years IET Board will be developed. The next meeting will take place later in the summer term.

Actions

- Subgroups will continue work on key priorities across accountability, workforce and SEND.
- Work will progress on supporting workforce capacity, parental engagement and inclusion.
- Officials will develop proposals on IET structures, including a new early years board.
- Members will continue to support and advise as reforms move into delivery.

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