

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
EDUCATION SERVICE

Academy Partnership Committee Meeting

St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley and online

Tuesday 9 February 2026, 3pm

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members:

Greg Melly, Fergus Brotherton, Joe Davies (Chair) Stephen Ravenscroft, Canon Jonathan Martin, DA

In attendance:

Canon Jonathan Martin, Julie Oldroyd, Maria Cowler, Sarah Kilmartin, Ray Williamson, Gill Sajnog (Secretary), Dave Carter

Apologies

Angela Wilding

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening prayer led by Canon Jonathan Martin, Diocesan Administrator (DA)

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered one application for academy conversion, which received conditional approval.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Crowborough (Bosco CET)

Overview

Papers had been sent in advance.

Governors have conducted thorough due diligence, consulting with schools already in the Trust.

Staff consultation showed favourable support.

Key points

- Carol Scanlon (current Head) is retiring Easter 2026

- David Neill, the Assistant Head, will serve as Acting Head for from April 2026-July 2027, as agreed with Diocese, East Sussex and Bosco CET.
- A substantive appointment will be made during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Bosco CET has put forward a plan for leadership support for David Neill during the transition period.
- Governors have been proactive in identifying challenges and engage well with both the diocese and Bosco CET.

Committee Decision:

The Committee agreed to support St Mary's joining Bosco CET, recognising their capacity to onboard the school and the strategic advantage of the school joining at this time, as it looks to recruit a substantive Head and as the school comes into the OFSTED window.

Declarations of Interest:

Fergus Brotherton abstained from commenting and voting on St Mary's application due to a conflict of interest.

Action

Julie Oldroyd to send the conditional consent letter from Canon Jonathan Martin, DA, to St Mary's Crowborough.

Date for next meeting

14 July 2026