

ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

Tuesday 14th July 2026

2.00 pm

1. Governance and Administration

- **Welcome and Prayer:** Opening prayer led by Julie Oldroyd.
- **Members:**
Greg Melly (GM), Fergus Brotherton (FB), Joe Davies (JD) (online), Stephen Ravenscroft (SR) Angela Wilding (AW)
- **In attendance:**
Julie Oldroyd (JO), Maria Cowler (MC), Ray Williamson (RW) Gill Sajnog (GS), Dave Carter (DC)
- **Apologies:** Canon Jonathan Martin and Sarah Kilmartin.
- **Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 were approved.

2. Brighton & Hove School Conversions

The Committee considered proposals for three Catholic primary schools in Brighton & Hove to join Bosco Catholic Education Trust:

- St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Portslade

The Committee received an overview from the CEO of Bosco CET covering the consultation undertaken with school communities, leadership and educational considerations, pupil numbers, finances and estates. The particular context and needs of each school were discussed.

The Committee noted the extensive consultation and community engagement undertaken across the three schools and the work undertaken to respond to questions raised by staff and parents.

The Committee also considered the different challenges and opportunities facing the schools, including leadership capacity, school improvement, pupil numbers, SEND provision and the development of sustainable leadership arrangements.

Financial and estates considerations were reviewed, including maintenance requirements and the financial position of the schools. The Committee noted the increased capacity within Bosco CET to undertake estates due diligence and manage capital priorities across the Trust.

Decision: Following discussion, the Committee unanimously approved in principle the conversion of all three schools to academy status and their joining Bosco Catholic Education Trust.

Action: Julie Oldroyd to send the conditional consent letter from Canon Jonathan Martin, DA, to

- St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Brighton
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Portslade

3. Wider Brighton & Hove Academisation

The Committee received an update on engagement with other Catholic schools in Brighton & Hove.

Schools are at different stages of considering academisation and will continue to be supported through the process.

4. Other Academy Conversions

The Committee received an update on other schools considering joining the diocesan Catholic Education Trusts.

Ongoing conversations with Xavier Catholic Education Trust – St Joseph's, Epsom and St Paul's, Thames Ditton.

A number of other schools are also at earlier stages of discussion and engagement with the diocesan academy strategy.

5. Any Other Business

The Committee recorded its thanks to Fergus Brotherton following the completion of his term of office with the Bosco Catholic Education Trust Board, recognising his contribution and commitment over ten years.

6. Future Meetings

Meeting dates for the 2026/27 academic year were agreed, with meetings normally taking place at 2.00 pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley.

The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday 22 September 2026**.