

### GDBE (Gloucester Diocesan Board of Education) Key Dates for Academy Conversion, 2025/26

GDBE deadline for receipt of draft application	GDBE deadline for receipt of final application	GDBE Academisation Committee meeting	GDBE (full board) meeting for decision
Thursday 25 September 2025	Thursday 2 October 2025	Thursday 16 October 2025, 10.00am – 1.00pm	Monday 20 October 2025
Monday 13 October 2025	Monday 20 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025, 2.00pm – 5.00pm	Tuesday 18 November 2025
Tuesday 6 January 2026	Monday 12 January 2026	Monday 26 January 2026, 1.00pm – 4.00pm	Tuesday 3 February 2026
Tuesday 10 February 2026	Tuesday 17 February 2026	Tuesday 3 March 2026, 2.00pm – 5.00pm	Wednesday 4 March 2026
Monday 13 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026	Tuesday 5 May 2026, 2.00pm – 5.00pm	Tuesday 19 May 2026
Tuesday 2 June 2026	Tuesday 9 June 2026	Tuesday 23 June 2026, 2.00pm – 5.00pm	Wednesday 24 June 2026

N.B. Department for Education (DfE) Advisory Board meeting dates, when available, can be found [here](#). Please refer to the DfE schedule to identify which GDBE Academisation Committee meeting will allow you to meet the papers deadline for your intended Advisory Board meeting.

*With high aspiration for excellence, we are passionate for all within our family of schools  
to experience God's love in a culture of care, dignity and hope.*

## Applications for Conditional Consent to Join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

- Information about the processes for joining the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust (DGAT), and for joining MATs other than DGAT, can be found [here](#).
- We ask all our schools to inform the diocesan Education Team ([schoolsgovernance@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:schoolsgovernance@glosdioc.org.uk)) at the earliest opportunity when they begin exploring options for joining a MAT, and to keep us abreast of the options that they are exploring. General queries relating to academisation can also be directed to the above address.
- The diocesan Education Team should be involved throughout the process, and advice can be sought at any stage from Roland Roberts, Principal Advisor for Governance ([rroberts@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:rroberts@glosdioc.org.uk)).
- Applications to join MATs other than DGAT must first go to the GDBE Academisation Committee for recommendation. A separate, equivalent process is in place for schools seeking to join DGAT. The resulting recommendations from either process will then be considered by the GDBE full board, who make the final decision on whether conditional consent will be granted. (School and MAT representatives are not expected to attend the GDBE meeting.) The GDBE's approval must be included by the school as part of the application process to the DfE, to inform the Advisory Board's decision. Where GDBE approval is granted, the formal letter confirming this will typically be received the next working day after the GDBE decision meeting takes place. Conditional consent must not be assumed as a given.
- Please note that there are limited places in Academisation Committee and GDBE full board meeting agendas, and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Schools should not assume that it will be possible to allocate a slot at a particular meeting, until this has been confirmed by the clerk to the GDBE, who can be contacted on [schoolsgovernance@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:schoolsgovernance@glosdioc.org.uk) to request a slot.
- All Academisation Committee meetings are held in person in the central diocesan offices in Gloucester. The panel will meet separately with representatives from the school and the MAT.

- If further guidance is sought, a **draft application** can be submitted to the Principal Advisor for Governance for comment and advice up to **15 working days** in advance, with the final application then submitted ten working days before the meeting.
- **Final applications** must be submitted to the Principal Advisor for Governance no fewer than **ten working days** before the date of the Academisation Committee meeting.