

Gloucester Diocesan Board of Education (GDBE)

Key Dates for Academy Conversion, September 2026 – December 2027

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 24 September 2026	Thursday 1 October 2026	Thursday 15 October 2026, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Thursday 22 October 2026
Tuesday 13 October 2026	Tuesday 20 October 2026	Tuesday 3 November 2026, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Tuesday 24 November 2026
Friday 11 December 2026	Friday 18 December 2026	Tuesday 19 January 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Tuesday 9 February 2027
Wednesday 10 February 2027	Wednesday 17 February 2027	Wednesday 3 March 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Thursday 11 March 2027
Tuesday 13 April 2027	Tuesday 20 April 2027	Wednesday 5 May 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Tuesday 25 May 2027
Tuesday 1 June 2027	Tuesday 8 June 2027	Tuesday 22 June 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Monday 28 June 2027
Thursday 23 September 2027	Thursday 30 September 2027	Thursday 14 October 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Thursday 21 October 2027
Tuesday 19 October 2027	Tuesday 26 October 2027	Tuesday 9 November 2027, 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Tuesday 30 November 2027

N.B. Department for Education (DfE) deadlines for submission of paperwork to them can be found [here](#). Please refer to the DfE schedule to identify which GDBE Academisation Committee meeting will allow you to meet your intended DfE papers deadline.

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, is available [here](#).
- We ask all our schools to inform the diocesan Education Team (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).
- Applications to join MATs other than DGAT must first go to the GDBE Academisation Committee (AC) 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 confirmation of conditional consent must be included by the school as part of the application process to the DfE. 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 AC 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 to request a slot. All AC meetings are held in person at the central diocesan offices in Gloucester. The panel will meet separately with MAT and school representatives.
- A **draft application** can be submitted to the Principal 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 AC meeting.
- Deadlines for the January 2027 AC meeting are slightly earlier, to ensure applications are received prior to the Christmas holidays.