

SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN: IDENTIFICATION & SUPPORT PROCESS

B: DBE AND ACADEMY OR SCHOOL CONVERSATION

1. The School Effectiveness Adviser (SEA) and the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) Lead holds an evidence based joint discussion with the 'at risk' academy or school.
2. They meet with the Headteacher, CEO of the Academy Trust or Chair of Governors within 4 weeks of the SCC group's review meeting. The LA is invited if the school is maintained by them.
3. The academy or school tables pre-meeting papers, including pupil data, to support discussions on the day; what is holding back improvement, how the school plans to overcome these barriers to progress, their plan to significantly improve the effectiveness of partnership working
4. Together we explore the issues and work to find solutions through partnerships
 - NLEs, SLEs and other resources provided by teaching schools and alliances
 - The value of using the DBE's Partnership Service Agreement
 - Collaborative school to school support; headteachers, governors, subject leaders
 - Explore organisational changes, membership of DSAT or other effective MAT partners
5. Our conversation is candid and demonstrates our joint commitment to getting it right for every child and young person
6. A copy of the SEA's report of the discussion and agreed outcomes is shared with the school and Trust Board or LA
7. Clear lines of communication are established and the DBE, through the SEA, keeps regular contact with the school causing concern; the academy trust or school shares reports of progress against the action plan e.g. SER meeting minutes termly, the improved outcomes for children, any issues or barriers to further improvement to inform DBE evaluation and decision making. The SEA arranges attendance at one review meeting in the school

E: DBE CONSIDERS THE SCHOOL OR ACADEMY HAS MADE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO BE NO LONGER CAUSING CONCERN

1. The academy or school's moderated self-evaluation is graded good or better.

A: DBE SCC GROUP MEETING

1. The group meets regularly to review academies and schools using data and intelligence, including Academy Trust information and the SDBE corporate member's annual return
2. The group flags schools causing concern and considers the level of risk
3. Possible actions are identified

D: DBE CHALLENGE MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL CAUSING CONCERN

1. Where the DBE considers there is evidence that progress has stalled or is too slow, the Director and the SCC Lead calls a meeting with the academy or school.
2. The Headteacher, CEO, and SDBE member of an academy or the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and a Foundation Governor of a maintained school meet the Director or Assistant Director at the Diocese Education Centre. If the school is maintained the LA is invited. The SEA and the Archdeacon also attend.
3. The academy or school tables pre-meeting papers, including pupil data, to support discussions on the day; what is holding back improvement, how the school plans to overcome these barriers to progress, their plan to significantly improve the effectiveness of partnership working
4. If not yet an academy within a MAT, expectations are set to enable progress towards organisational change as part of an effective MAT
5. SEA shares the report of the discussion and agreed outcomes with those invited and the Regional Schools Commissioner

C: THE SEA, AS GATEKEEPER, EVALUATES THE IMPACT OF THE SCHOOL/ACADEMY AND MAT ACTIONS AND THE IMPACT OF ANY PSA SUPPORT PURCHASED

1. The SEA establishes an effective partnership with the school causing concern through regular contact in order to evaluate the impact of school improvement and maintain an understanding of the effectiveness of:
 - the improvement plan
 - the work of other partners eg. the teaching school alliance
 - the improvements to outcomes of the children
 - the leadership to overcome barriers to further improvement
2. The SEA evaluates the impact of any school improvement support purchased through the PSA.
3. If there is a concern in the rate of improvement the SEA raises their concern with the SCC Lead as well as the academy or school causing concern and the MAT/LA to which it belongs