

CLERKS' BRIEFING

SUMMER 2026

Pam Langmead



WELCOME



AGENDA SETTING

- Summer meeting of the governing board
- What's on the agenda?
- Committees
- Q & A



Model summer term agenda 2026

Please note that your agenda will vary depending on the structure your governing board adopted. Please amend as appropriate for maintained schools and academies. As a Clerk/Governance Professional you should refer to the Governing Board Year Planner prior to drafting the agenda.

Name of School:
Address:

Summer term meeting of the Governing Board/Board of Trustees/Local Governing Body agenda

Date:
Time:
Place:
Clerk/Governance Professional:

Note: Please note that all supporting documents are available to view and download in/from *(indicate the platform/system you are using)*

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

Note: Any governor/trustee who, without the consent of the governing board, fails to attend governing board meetings for a continuous period of six months after their first absence is disqualified from continuing as a governor/trustee. The governing board may decline to accept apologies for absence from a governor/trustee, but if apologies are accepted, then the governing

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

[Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 – consultation](#)

The consultation is open until **22 April 2026**, with the updated guidance intended to take effect from September 2026.

[Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools](#)

New guidance in force from 1st April, including statutory recording and reporting, and a requirement to have a policy about use of reasonable force (which may be included in the Behaviour Policy)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children – March 2026](#)

- **Stronger focus on vulnerability and inequality:** The 2026 update gives more attention to racism, discrimination, babies and unborn children, and children in care.
- **Broader safeguarding picture:** It places more emphasis on domestic abuse, multiple harms, and the connection between online and offline harm.
- **Sharper multi-agency expectations**

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Schools White Paper: Every Child Thriving and Achieving

SEND Reform consultation

- The DfE expects implementation of its schools' white paper to come in 3 overlapping phases:
- **Phase 1:** 2025/26 – aligning to best practice and higher standards
- **Phase 2:** 2026/27 to 2027/28 – preparation for SEND and curriculum reforms
- **Phase 3:** 2028/29 onwards – full implementation

Inclusive Mainstream funding

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

- Free Breakfast club roll out

[Updated guidance published on 14th April 2026](#)

- Free School Meals expansion

From the start of the new school year in September 2026, every pupil at a state-funded school, nursery, sixth form, or college in England, whose household receives Universal Credit, [will be entitled to free school meals.](#)

- School Food Standards

The existing standards have been in place for more than 10 years and no longer align with current dietary advice. A nine-week consultation on these food standards launches in April 2026, with implementation required by September 2028.

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Mobile phones in schools DfE guidance

- How schools can prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default; anything other than this should be by exception only.
- All schools must have a behaviour policy which is aligned with the school's legal duties and standards relating to the welfare of children. As part of this policy, schools should develop a mobile phone policy that prohibits the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones (for example the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks or the ability to record audio and/or video) throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime.
- A school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones can be included within the school's behaviour policy or be its own standalone document.

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Supporting pupils with medical conditions and allergies: consultation summary

- The consultation will run until Friday 1 May 2026, and the updated guidance will come into force in September 2026.
- The draft guidance places a greater focus on supporting pupils with allergies. The updated guidance will likely replace the existing [non-statutory allergy guidance for schools](#).
- The draft guidance places new expectations on governors and trustees to oversee support for pupils with medical conditions and allergies

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025

The [Employment Rights Act 2025](#) focuses on improving working conditions and giving employees, including staff at your school, more say around the decisions that affect them.

The act became law on 19 December 2025 and its implementation is happening in phases over a 2-year period.

The act includes changes to:

- Employee pay
- Time off work
- Employee dismissal
- Zero-hours contracts
- Workplace handling of issues such as sexual harassment
- Trade union rights and industrial action

POLICY UPDATE

This term you (*may*) need to review and adopt:

- Use of restrictive intervention/reasonable force (may be part of your behaviour policy)
- Mobile Phones in School Policy (may be part of your behaviour policy)
- Leave of Absence Policy
- Sickness Absence Management Procedures
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy (updated April 2026)
- Allergy Policy – depending on the outcome of the medical conditions consultation
- Complaints Policy and leaflet – ensure you have the most up to date version of the complaints policy.

DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

Academies Accounts Direction 2025-2026

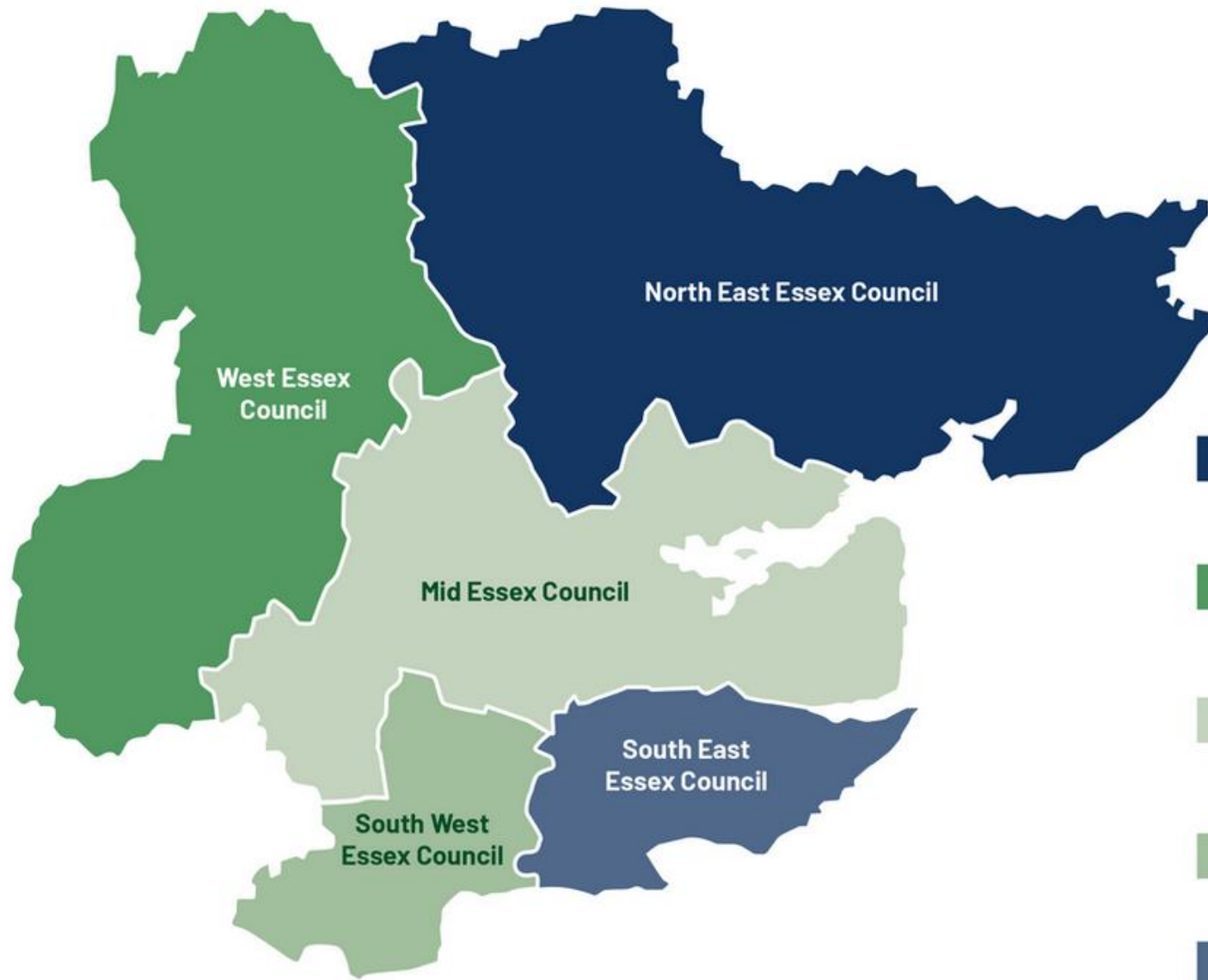
- The AAD 2025-26 applies to accounting periods ending on 31 August 2026 and was published on 26 March 2025.
- It is used by academy trusts, their auditors, and reporting accountants to prepare and audit financial statements for the accounting period ending on 31 August and is updated annually.
- The Accounts Direction is split into three documents:
 - Academies Accounts Direction
 - Model Accounts
 - Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts

GREATER ESSEX – DEVOLUTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

Devolution: mayoral election postponed until May 2028; council elections on 7th May 2026

Key Details of the Essex LGR Update:

- **Five Unitary Structure:** The proposed structure involves five new councils: West Essex, North East Essex, Mid Essex, South West Essex, and South East Essex.
- **Timeline:** The new authorities are planned to go live on April 1, 2028, with shadow elections for members in May 2027.



- Braintree District Council
 Colchester City Council
 Essex County Council
 Tendring District Council

- Epping Forest District Council
 Essex County Council
 Harlow District Council
 Uttlesford District Council

- Brentwood Borough Council
 Chelmsford City Council
 Essex County Council
 Maldon District Council

- Basildon Borough Council
 Essex County Council
 Thurrock Council

- Castle Point Borough Council
 Essex County Council
 Rochford District Council
 Southend-on-Sea City Council

EPHA ONLINE TRAINING – SUMMER TERM

FOR GOVERNORS, CLERKS AND SCHOOL STAFF - FREE TRAINING

GOVERNORS' TERMLY EDUCATION BRIEFING – WEDNESDAY 13 MAY – 6.00 pm

THE GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN OFSTED INSPECTION – MONDAY 18 MAY – 4.00 pm

MANAGING COMPLAINTS – THURSDAY 4 JUNE – 4.00 pm

SUSPENSIONS AND PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS – WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE – 4.00 pm

Email pam@langmead.me.uk for Zoom link and information



ECA KEY DATES

ANNUAL NETWORKING LUNCH – TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026 – 9.30 am in-person

AUTUMN TERM BRIEFING – WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2026 – 5.00 pm online

SPRING TERM BRIEFING – WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2027 – 5.00 pm online

SUMMER TERM BRIEFING AND AGM – WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2027 – 5.00 pm
online



