



SDBE Schools Causing Concern (SCC)

Context: The SDBE's Place in the Educational Landscape

- In line with the Church of England Education Office national Vision for Education and our own diocesan Board of Education vision, our objective is to ensure the full flourishing of every child by showing in all our work, God's goodness, offering God's mercy and revealing God's compassion.
- It follows that, when church schools are identified as causing concern, we have a responsibility to ensure that the 'body' with statutory responsibility for the school is putting steps in place, which will ensure that every child fully flourishes.
- Our SCC work is a robust engagement with the 'body' with statutory responsibility, enabling them to discharge their responsibility.
- To ensure Church schools have best access to school improvement support through the self-improving school system, supported by our relationships particularly with regional teaching schools council through Team South West; Regional Education partnerships; teaching schools; multi academy trusts; local authorities.
- The SCC strategy is to walk alongside schools to prevent crisis and promote effective school improvement, whilst supporting pastorally, if required.

The 3 principles which underpin the SCC strategy recognise that:

- schools are autonomous and responsible for their own improvement
- close partnership working leads to effective improvement
- the Christian ethos supports a moral imperative for good outcomes for all children, transforming their lives

SDBE 'Descriptors' for Schools Causing Concern: (in this document the term school is used for both schools and individual academies) To deliver the SCC strategy, the SDBE flagging of schools may be shared with the 'body' with statutory responsibility and the RDD.

<u>School /Academy Flagging</u>		<u>Descriptor</u>
Red		A school where there are significant concerns, which can include underperformance, and there is no identified solution. The school might appear to lack the leadership, governance or capacity to progress the situation.
Orange		A school where there are significant concerns, which can include underperformance, which has established support in place which is not yet demonstrating secure improvement.
Yellow		A school where there are significant concerns, which can include underperformance, however there is a recently identified solution in place, which has the potential to lead to improvement/which is already demonstrating improvement.



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A school remains a School Causing Concern until there is clear, sustained evidence of the impact of this solution.

A school is underperforming if any of the following apply:

- outcomes of attainment and progress in the most recent statutory assessments are significantly below the national average
- the three year trend shows a decline in performance
- information shared by the school indicates a predicted decline in performance

Identification of Schools Causing Concern

- A school may be identified as a 'School Causing Concern' through its own self-evaluation which will be shared through the school's contact with the SDBE
- The SDBE undertakes a risk assessment based on a school's IDSR, PIR, website and SIA visit information.
- Intelligence shared by the body with responsibility for statutory school improvement, could identify a school as a 'School Causing Concern'.

SDBE Actions for Schools Causing Concern

Red strategic approach	<p>Schools which are identified as causing concern at red level are regularly reviewed in SCC group meetings.</p> <p>Regular contact (at least 3 times a year) between SDBE SCC group and body which holds statutory responsibility for the school, including attending TAS meetings, LA/MAT review meetings, or providing SDBE led meetings where appropriate. Regular contact continues until a MAT is joined or until the support provided by the Teaching School/other is recognised as having impact.</p> <p>At the point a school becomes red or there is a concern in the rate of progress, a member of the SCC group raises this concern with the school and the MAT/LA to arrange a meeting* with the MAT/LA, Head, Chair of Governors and foundation governors which will also be attended by a member of the SDBE SLT.</p> <p>This is a three-hour meeting. This meeting is not part of the diocesan Partnership Service Agreement (PSA). It is an extra meeting.</p> <p>The purposes of this meeting are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hear and understand the perspective of the school on the factors which have identified it as a School Causing Concern. - Understand the impact of strategies for improvement to date. - Jointly consider how joined up working might broker solutions. (The SDBE's role is to build bridges for the school with other educational bodies and to help to commission support.) <p>The SDBE will determine, from this meeting, the appropriate SCC flagging for the school.</p>
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LIVING OUT GOD'S TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

	<p>The SDBE notes from the meeting will be robust and transparent, include the timeline moving forwards and will be shared with the body which holds statutory responsibility for the school.</p>
	<p>A member of SDBE SCC group may visit and quality assure the schools which are evaluated as potentially ready to have the red flagging removed. Documentation which may be requested from the school in advance of the visit, includes School Development Plan, Self-Evaluation Forms and minutes of recent governor meetings. Website information to be reviewed.</p> <p>School visit could include carrying out a learning walk and book scrutiny with the Head and Chair of Governors.</p>
Orange strategic approach	<p>Schools which are identified as causing concern at orange level are regularly reviewed in the SCC group meetings.</p>
	<p>Member of the SDBE SCC group meets with the MAT lead for school improvement, Head, Chair of Governors and foundation governors. This is a two hour meeting. This meeting is not part of the diocesan Partnership Service Agreement (PSA). It is an extra meeting.</p> <p>The purposes of this meeting are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hear and understand the perspective of the school on the factors which have identified it as a School Causing Concern. - Understand the impact of strategies for improvement to date. - Jointly consider how joined up working might broker solutions. (The SDBE's role is to build bridges for the school with other educational bodies and to help to commission support.) <p>The SDBE will determine, from this meeting, the appropriate SCC flagging for the school.</p> <p>The SDBE notes from the meeting are sent to the school and the body which holds statutory responsibility for the school (LA/MAT)</p>
	<p>Regular evaluation of each school's position in the SCC meetings.</p> <p>A member of SDBE SCC group may visit and quality assure the schools which are evaluated as potentially ready to have the orange flagging removed to review the impact of the support and strategies in place.</p> <p>Documentation to be requested from the school in advance of the visit, including School Development Plan, Self Evaluation Forms and minutes of recent governor meetings. Website information to be reviewed.</p> <p>School visit could include carrying out a learning walk and book scrutiny with the Head and Chair of Governors.</p>
	<p>SIA meets together with the Head, Chair of Governors, foundation governors and MAT/LA.</p> <p>SDBE requests a progress impact report from the school a week before this meeting.</p>



	<p>This is a two hour meeting. The purposes of this meeting are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand the impact of strategies for improvement to date.- If necessary, consider how further support may be used. <p>The SDBE notes of the meeting are sent to the school and the body which holds statutory responsibility for the school (LA/MAT). SDBE SCC group makes a judgement as to whether the school is making secure progress. The SDBE will determine, from this meeting, the appropriate SCC flagging for the school.</p>
Yellow strategic approach	<p>The yellow category is predominantly for schools exiting the SCC strategy and is used to ensure that monitoring of schools continues, whilst further SDBE action is deemed appropriate for very few.</p> <p>The school may request a QA visit or a SCC meeting or these may be offered by the SDBE.</p> <p>Following this action, it is likely that the SCC flagging will either be removed or raised to orange.</p>

Trusts

This strategy interconnects with the DBE Trust strategy, with each Trust having a range of opportunities annually to engage with the DBE team. Each CEO has the opportunity to meet annually with the adviser with responsibility for the church schools within the MAT, enabling the sharing of support available to the trust and providing opportunity for further dialogue. The SDBE member in each MAT engages in a development program across the year with the SDBE team to enable them in their key role of representing the SDBE within their trust.

In conjunction, these routes provide a range of opportunities for the DBE to work in partnership and offer support to Trusts who are experiencing challenge, within the scope of the SDBE Trusts Causing Concern strategy.

**Where the LA/ MAT is planning a similar review meeting in the same term, the intention is that a combined meeting is held in order to improve efficiency and reduce workload for the school.*