



Department for Education

2024-0042398

Stephen Morgan MP
Minister for Early Education

Blake Stephenson MP

By email: blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk

Richard Fuller MP

By email: richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk

20 January 2025

Dear Blake and Richard,

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 December, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the review of St Neots Academy. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

We are reviewing mainstream free school projects, to ensure that they continue to meet localised need for places, offer value for money and are not to the detriment of the other schools in the local area. We have gathered the latest data and evidence from Bedford Borough Council and Advantage Schools Trust, and other stakeholders are welcome to submit their views to the department.

Although the site has not yet been confirmed as a viable option, initial discussions have taken place regarding the land put forward by Bedford Borough Council. This is in addition to the potential purchase of further land currently for sale in the MP for Bedford's constituency in order to have a site of sufficient size should the school proceed.

Departmental officials copied in the MP for Bedford when we wrote to Bedford Borough Council because the lead site is based in his constituency. Going forwards we will ensure you are updated on the next steps of the review. No decisions have yet been taken, and I will not do so until I have considered all of the latest evidence.

Thank you for writing. I hope that this response is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Morgan MP
Minister for Early Education