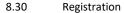
Westminster Education Forum policy conference: Next steps for school buildings in England

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 15th January 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



9.00 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 Assessing the condition of the education estate, progress of the School Rebuilding Programme, and considerations for policy

Senior commentator

Questions and comments from the floor

9.25 Priorities for use of funding, maintenance, rebuilding, and future planning for school buildings

funding commitments in the 2025 Spending Review and Infrastructure Strategy | rollout and expansion of the School Rebuilding
Programme and planning for schools not currently included | long-term planning and annual budgets | coordinating central and local
capital decisions | national construction frameworks and delivery models across multi-academy trusts and local authorities |
procurement, risk, and construction sector capacity | addressing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete and asbestos | building
safety oversight, transparency, responsibilities, accountability, and communication | insights from recent condition surveys | balancing
short-term remediation with long-term functionality and design quality | mitigating impact on learning and staff

Tim Warneford, Partner, Warneford Consulting

Councillor Nick Bennett, Deputy Leader and Lead Member, Resources and Climate Change, East Sussex County Council Senior representative, school

Senior representative, construction

Questions and comments from the floor

10.10 Working with schools to meet community needs

Lara Newman, Chief Executive, LocatED Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 Chair's closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

10.40 Break

10.50 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

10.55 <u>Developing cross-sector collaboration to support net zero goals in the education estate</u>

Senior representative, energy

11.05 Next steps for decarbonisation and retrofitting in the education estate

retrofitting ageing stock to improve energy efficiency | designing for long-term sustainability and whole-life carbon reduction | integrating smart systems, renewables, and green spaces | managing funding, timelines, and supply chains under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme | funding gaps following closure of PSDS and the Low-Carbon Skills Fund | engaging delivery partners including Great British Energy | reconciling heritage preservation and green priorities | aligning environmental goals with operational and educational needs

Alex Green, Head, Let's Go Zero, Ashden Senior representative, construction Senior representative, school

11.20 Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 <u>Priorities for modernisation and improving access and inclusion</u>

improving physical accessibility and inclusive learning environments | integrating digital learning infrastructure and flexible use of space | addressing regional variation in estate condition and investment | equity between schools, settings and communities | addressing the impact of poor building conditions on staff retention and recruitment

Senior representative, school

Senior representative, local authority

Senior representative, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Senior representative, construction

Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 Policy priorities for the education estate and achieving net zero

Dr Jonathan Dewsbury, Director, Education Estates and Net Zero, Department for Education

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 <u>Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks</u>

Senior Parliamentarian

Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum

