



Department  
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner, North  
Department for Education  
Bishopsgate House  
Feethams, Darlington  
DL1 5QE

Tel: 01325 340676

Email: [rsc.north@education.gov.uk](mailto:rsc.north@education.gov.uk)

12 April 2017

Mr James  
Chair  
Blyth Quays Trust  
William Street  
Blyth  
Northumberland  
NE24 2HP

Dear Mr James,

**Warning Notice to the Blyth Quays Trust (“the academy trust”) in respect of Malvin’s Close Primary Academy (“the academy”)**

Under Clause 5.2 of the School Funding Agreement, the Secretary of State is able to issue a Termination Warning Notice where she is satisfied that the standards of performance at the academy are unacceptably low or there has been a serious breakdown in the way the academy is managed or governed.

The purpose of this Warning Notice is to inform the academy trust that unless the remedial action specified in this Termination Warning Notice is taken by the specified deadline to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, she may consider terminating the Funding Agreement in respect of this academy.

The academy trust has been accountable for this academy since June 2013 and in this time the Secretary of State and I are satisfied that the standards of performance of pupils at the academy have been unacceptably low because:

- the academy has an Ofsted rating of requires improvement;
- the academy has been below the KS2 floor standard for two years;
- KS2 progress in 2016 in reading, writing and mathematics was significantly below the national average and is in the lowest 10% nationally.

The Secretary of State and I are also satisfied that there has been a serious breakdown in the way the academy has been managed and governed because:

- the academy has performed poorly over a period of time; and
- the academy trust has not demonstrated how they will bring about urgent and sustained improvement at the academy,

## **Terms of the Warning Notice**

The Secretary of State requires the academy trust to prepare and submit to me, by 19 May 2017, a robust improvement plan to address the issues raised in this Notice to bring about urgent and sustained improvement in the performance of the academy. The academy trust will develop and submit to me a trust and academy level improvement plan clearly setting out how the performance will be rapidly improved - including the actions to be taken, milestones, lines of accountability and success criteria. The plans should clearly describe the actions the academy trust and the academy will take to:

- improve the quality of teaching at the academy;
- improve standards for reading, writing and maths at the academy; and
- close the performance gap for disadvantaged children more quickly at the academy.

Should the academy trust fail to submit a plan by that date or should the Secretary of State take the view that the plan submitted fails to satisfactorily address the issues identified in this Warning Notice, the Secretary of State shall consider terminating the Funding Agreement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Renou', with a small flourish at the end.

**Jan Renou**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for the North**